

FROM THE OFFICE OF RET. LTG RUSSEL L. HONORÉ

May 20, 2024

Hon. Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past two years I have been honored to collaborate with a wide range of Haitian citizens, Haitian-Americans and United States supporters of Haiti. During several listening sessions via Zoom and at organized town halls and conferences with the Haitian Diaspora, I have heard their plea for American action to help resolve the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in their native land. My voice and message served to reinforce the Biden-Harris administration's assistance to date which you made a priority, Mr. President.

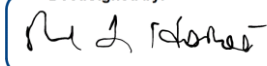
One message coming out of those listening sessions is a strong interest for you to name a Special Envoy to Haiti who can work closely with your State Department, the Temporary Presidential Council of Haiti, international partners, and the Haitian Diaspora to help sustainability and solve Haiti's most intractable humanitarian crisis. The United States has a long history of appointing White House Special Envoys to troubled parts of the world experiencing urgent and complicated challenges - insecurity, civil strife, famine, or population displacement, all of which threaten the lives and safety of tens of thousands of people today. More than 4.5 million innocent souls in Haiti are on the brink of starvation, and millions more face food insecurity. Only two hospitals are open, with limited makeshift services because of lack of medicine, medical supplies and equipment.

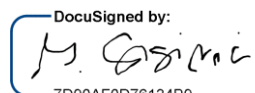
Haiti is a very complex country with multifaceted political and social structures. Therefore, the current situation calls for a Special Envoy with the diplomatic skill sets, cultural competencies, political acumen and experience solving complicated problems to engage both in Haiti and in the US, as well as international partners—sources of future investments of human and financial capital to sustain development in Haiti. The Special Envoy must have the respect and trust of the Haitian diaspora, the people of Haiti and most importantly, be someone who is equally ready and able to protect the interests of the United States.

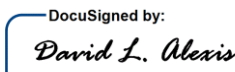
We ask that the White House move with deliberate speed to appoint a Special Envoy to Haiti who can help the transitional government with the myriads of social and political issues facing Haiti. The Haitian Diaspora enthusiastically endorses and supports the appointment of Rockfeler P. Herisse, PhD who meets and exceeds all the above qualifications.

Your administration appointment of a Haitian-American as White House Special Envoy to Haiti at this critical moment in history will send a strong signal to the African-American electorate that your administration views Haiti with the same care, consideration and priority as Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

Respectfully,

  
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Russel L. Honore  
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President, Office of the Haitian Diaspora