

March 17, 2021.

Mr.

Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona
President of the Dominican Republic

We, the undersigned organizations of civil society and human rights defenders from throughout the Americas, hereby express our deep concern regarding your recent announcement (Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021) before the National Assembly regarding the initiative to build a double-sided fence along the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, with the intention of deterring irregular migration from Haiti.

Although recurrent political crises in Haiti have exacerbated economic, social and humanitarian conditions there, with significant impact on issues related to human mobility in the Dominican Republic, the eventual responses to these by the Dominican state must respect the fundamental rights of all human beings, and in particular those of Haitian migrants and their descendants.

We consider that measures narrowly grounded in paradigms of “national security” and lacking a human rights perspective, such as the building of border walls, generate or deepen problems related to migration, instead of providing authentic, respectful, just and dignified responses. These problems include the following, among others:

- Intensification of conditions of transnational corruption and organized crime at the border
- Increase in the illegal smuggling and trafficking of migrants due to more difficult conditions related to crossing the border
- Exacerbation of discrimination against Dominicans of Haitian descent or origin, as well as migrants
- Increased levels of poverty among affected families, whose sources of income and indeed of survival depend on activities carried out on the other side of the border
- Legitimization and normalization of discourses of hate and violence by nationalist and even extremist groups
- Dissemination and promotion of greater disinformation of a xenophobic character, both in mass media and through social networks

Now, more than ever, there is a need among countries and peoples of our region for a deeper sense of Latin American and Caribbean integration, based on convergent and reciprocal responsibilities, cooperation, sisterhood and brotherhood and solidarity between us. From this perspective, the construction of a border fence or wall is unacceptable in our region.

To the contrary, our states must take measures that respect and protect the fundamental rights of all persons without discrimination motivated by race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, economic status, place of birth or any other social condition. Furthermore, this constitutes an imperative principle of the contemporary international order reflected in international standards of protection that has deep roots in our shared history as free and independent peoples throughout the American continent.

This is especially urgent, given the critical nature of the times in which we live, which remind us constantly of our underlying human condition, and underline the centrality of the values of universal solidarity and social protection, and the need to find common solutions to our shared dilemmas.

In light of all the above, Mr. President, we respectfully call upon you to rethink this initiative of interposing a wall between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and instead to deploy the vast resources that such a project would involve towards the implementation of alternative measures consistent with human rights that could stimulate opportunities for integration and development for the benefit of both Dominicans and Haitians in the border region, as well as more regular, humane, and safe processes of migration.

Thank for your attention and consideration.

Cordially,

Signatory organizations

Country

Tejiendo Redes Infancia en América Latina y el Caribe	América Latina
SUTAP	Argentina
Maestría en economía social	Argentina
Diálogo 2000-Jubileo Sur Argentina	Argentina
Articulación Continental de Movimientos Sociales hacia el ALBA (ALBA Movimientos)	Argentina
-Comisión Argentina para Refugiados y Migrantes-CAREF	Argentina
Instituto de Presencia Afro en Cordoba, Argentina	Argentina
Agenda Colombia - Brasil	Brasil
Coletivo Amazônico LesBiTrans	Brasil
COMUNEMA - Coletivo de Mulheres Negra 'Maria-Maria'	Brasil
CFNTX - Centro de Formação da Negra e do Negro da Transamazônica e Xingu	Brasil
Núcleo Interdisciplinar de Estudos Migratórios NIEM, NIEM	Brasil
Instituto Migraciones y Derechos Humanos (IMDH), de Brasilia,	Brasil
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes y Refugiados	Brasil
Université du Québec à Montréal	Canada
École d'Études politiques, Université d'Ottawa	Canada
Centre justice et foi	Canada
Concertation pour Haiti	Canada
Individu	Canada
Concertation Pour Haïti et Église Unie du Canada	Canada
Amnistie internationale	Canada
Les Artisans de Paix Internationale	Canada
Clínica Jurídica de la Universidad Alberto Hurtado,	Chile
Centro de Direitos Humanos e Cidadania do Imigrante (CDHIC) Brasil	
Clínica Jurídica de Migrantes y Refugiados de la Universidad Diego Portales - UDP-,	Chile
Fundación Gente de la Calle	Chile
Movimiento Accion Migrante y Red Nacional de Organizaciones migrantes y promigrantes de Chile	Chile
Agrupación de los Haitianos residentes en Quintero	Chile
IDC International Dockworkers Council	Chile
AMPRO TARAPACÁ	Chile
Clínica Jurídica para Migrantes de la Universidad de los Andes	Colombia
Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento -CODHES-	Colombia
Foro Migración Haitiana	Colombia
Centro de Estudios Políticos y Sociales del Pueblo Afro	Colombia
Movimiento Nacional Afrocolombiano -CIMARRÓN-	Colombia
Consejo Laboral Afrocolombiano CLAF	Colombia
JusticiaR, colectivo de abogados	Colombia
Afromedios	Colombia
Conferencia Nacional de Organizaciones Afrocolombianas - CNOA	Colombia
Sudecc	Colombia
ENERAM	Colombia
Red Afros Colombia	Colombia
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (JRS/COL)	Colombia
Semillas Verdes	Colombia
Organización Ette Ennaka de Narakajmanta	Colombia
Agenda Colombia	Colombia
Red Colombo-Venezolana de Movilidad Humana RedColVen	Colombia
PDA	Colombia

Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados,	Ecuador.
Aso.Coordinadora de Trabajadores Marítimos y Portuarios Ecuadori	Ecuador
Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo SJ" (CSMM)	Ecuador
Fundación para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Paz	Ecuador
Misión Scalabriniana	Ecuador
Fundación Side	Ecuador
Asociacion ciudadanos del mundo	Ecuador
Fundación Dolores Medina	El Salvador
Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente de El Salvador, GMIES	El Salvador
Berlin Strippers Collective	Germany
SINTRAPSATCA	Guatemala
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes,	Haití.
Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés (GARR)	Haiti
Plateforme Genre du Nord'est	Haiti
Service Jesuite aux Migrants-Haiti	Haiti
Colette Lespinasse	Haiti
Embajadores de Buena Voluntad	Haití
Centre de Developpement Soutenable -CEDESOU-	Haití
GARR	Haïti
Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés (GARR)	Haïti
Groupe Médialternatif	Haïti
Women's Link Worldwide	Internacional
Red Jesuita con Migrantes LAC.	Latinoamérica y el Caribe
Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados LAC.	Latinoamérica y el Caribe
Conseil National des Comités Populaires (CNCP)	Martinique
Albergue Migrantes Toribio Romo A.C.	Mexico
Sin Fronteras IAP	Mexico
Asylum Access México (AAMX) A.C.	México
Instituto Madre Asunta Tijuana México	México
Partido Comunes	México
Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad	México
PRECADEM,A C./TICPM	MÉXICO
Instituto de Geografía para la paz AC (IGP/Geopaz)	México
Secretaría permanente, Tribunal Internacional de Conciencia de los Pueblos en Movimiento	México/Colombia
Sindicato de Apuntadores Portuarios y Anexos de la Capital	Paraguay
Red Sin Fronteras	Red en América y Europa
Red Regional de Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones, RROCM	Regional
Centro de Desarrollo Sostenible (CEDESOU)	República Dominicana
Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos de República Dominicana	República Dominicana
Mesa Nacional para las Migraciones y Refugiados en RD(menamird)	República Dominicana
FUBEDHA	República Dominicana
Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico Haitiana -MUDHA	República Dominicana
Mosctha	República Dominicana
Colectivo haitianosRD	República Dominicana
Movimiento Reconocido	República Dominicana
Foundation Etnica Integral	república dominicana
Table de Dialogue Transfroterizo	República Dominicana
Iglesia	República Dominicana
Fundacion Binacional de Ayuda a la Familia y la Infancia (FUNBINAFIN)	República Dominicana
NAPSA	República Dominicana
Comunidad de Haitianos/as Organizados/as en RD (Colectivo #HaitianosRD)	República Dominicana

FUNCAR/CENTRO PUENTE	República Dominicana
Centro de Desarrollo de los Bateyes	República Dominicana
Centro de Desarrollo Sostenible -CEDES-	República Dominicana
Comite de tierra Sambo Creek	Sambo Creek La Ceiba
	atlantida Honduras
Yvette ILLAS	South Africa
Plate-Forme Haïti de Suisse (PFHS)	Suisse
The BSWC	United States
Best Practices Policy Project	United States
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries	United States
Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami	United States
Desiree Alliance	United States
Central American Resource Center - LA	United States
Washington Office on Latin America	United States
Hope Frye	United States
Casa Camino Real	United States
IMTERP	United States
Foundation for Economic and Social Justice	United States
Project Blueprint	United States
National Lawyers Guild International Committee	United States
Witness at the Border/Testigos en la Frontera: www.witnessattheborder.org	United States/Mexico
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights	United States
Border of Lights	United States
Agenda Internacional de Paz	United States
US Human Rights Network	United States
Strippers United	United States
Border of Lights/Frontera de Luces	United States
Mariposa DR Foundation	United States
AFROAMERICAS	United States
Convite AC	Venezuela
AFRICARACAS	Venezuela
FundaRedes	Venezuela

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Susana Quiloango	Ecuador
Jean Marcelson Abraham	France

Country

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Marielo Chirino	Nicaragua
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