



# STOP U.S. ARMS TO HAITI

Haitians are facing an exceptionally challenging situation as the lack of a stable government and infrastructure has allowed armed gangs to take control of much of the country. Gang violence has made daily life, education, and work life-threatening or impossible for most of the last four years, causing many Haitians continue to suffer in desperate poverty and famine in addition to fear and trauma.

The violence is largely made possible through firearms and ammunition originating in the United States, including .50 caliber rifles, military weapons that can penetrate structures, lightly armored vehicles, and taxiing airplanes.<sup>[1]</sup> These and other small arms are *not* manufactured in Haiti. The vast majority are being exported from the United States to Haiti, which is enabled by a combination of weak gun laws in several US states and lack of oversight by the US federal government on gun trafficking and exported goods. Failure to stop these exports is also a failure to meet the obligations of the total arms embargo on Haiti to which the US agreed in a 2023 UN Security Council Resolution.

Our call as faith leaders and those in solidarity with Haitians and the Haitian diaspora is to demand U.S. leaders to stop the flow of illegal weapons into Latin America and the Caribbean via both executive action and legislation. We are specifically asking members of Congress to support four priority bills:

- [HR 6618 / S 4647: The ARMAS Act](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [HR 7799 / S 4067: The CATCH Act](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [HR 8427 / S 2926: Stop Arming Cartels Act](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [S396: Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

This intersectional issue calls on us to defend the dignity of human lives across Haiti and the entire region. The U.S. is exporting its public health crisis of gun violence to those already made poor by the effects of climate change, global inequality, and militarized and corrupt governments that have often been supported by U.S. policies. Furthermore, these phenomena force many of our neighbors in the region into migration only to be met with systemic racism and deportation despite their international right to claim asylum. Through the passage of the above bills, we can begin to address one of the many roots of this multidimensional suffering by directing energy toward stopping the illegal weapons that are fueling the violence.



[1] <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/machine-guns-50-caliber/#:~:text=A%2050%20caliber%20rifle%20can,even%20longer%20orange%2C%20sacrificing%20accuracy.&text=This%20is%20more%20than%20twice,15%2C%20a%20popular%20assault%20rifle.>

[2] The ARMAS (Americas Regional Monitoring of Arms Sales) Act would transfer small arms authority back to the Department of State from Commerce to increase accountability and transparency as well as develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for arms sales and oversight of exports.

[3] The CATCH (Caribbean Arms Trafficking Causes Harm) Act would strengthen the new Coordinator for Caribbean Firearms Prosecutions under the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in their accountability and reporting to Congress and law enforcement agencies.

[4] The Stop Arming Cartels Act would ban deadly .50 caliber rifles and allow victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers and dealers who engage in prohibited firearms trafficking as well as strengthen reporting of multiple sales of rifles to law enforcement to disrupt straw purchasing and smuggling.

[5] This bill, already passed in the House, imposes accountability and sanctions on Haitian political and economic elites supporting the gangs.

**\* ADDITIONAL CO-ORGANIZERS:**

- CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF ST. AGNES
- JUSTICE 4 AYITI
- PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL
- PAX CHRISTI METRO DC-BALTIMORE
- PAX CHRISTI USA GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKING GROUP
- SEEDS OF HOPE IN HAITI
- SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NEW YORK