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US Faithful and Friends Gather at the Capitol to Call on Congress and DHS: Stop US Arms to Haiti

When: 9:00 am, Thursday September 26

Where: Upper Senate Park at Constitution and Delaware Avenues



Faith-based networks and their partners demand legislative and administrative action to plug the arms pipelines sustaining gang rule in Haiti



Washington, DC---Today, representatives and partners of over 40 justice-concerned organizations and networks will gather at 9:00 am at the US Capitol to decry **Haiti's ongoing battle with guns and ammunition that have been illegally trafficked into the country from the United States.**



The coalition will start the day with a public prayer and call to action on Capitol Hill. They will then conduct meetings with 15 Senate offices and present a statement of their concerns and calls to action to the congressional offices of an additional 23 states.



At the heart of their message is the human face of Haiti's descent into gang rule from 2021 to the present. Over this period, the coalition reported, the tightening grip of heavily armed gangs produced an atmosphere of unrelenting terror that has made all forms of work, worship, education, play, and daily activities life-threatening and nearly impossible for the Haitian people. **This tragic story has been made possible by the illegal import of arms from neighboring countries with an estimated 70% originating in the United States.**



The coalition is calling on both bodies of Congress to pass into law four pieces of pending legislation that could meaningfully reduce the flow of arms to Haiti. The bills they are supporting are the CATCH Act, ARMAS Act, Stop Arming Cartels Act, and Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act.



Doing our part to cut the arms pipeline, the lifeblood of Haiti's gang violence, is the most politically just, nonviolent, and cost-effective measure that the US can take to support our neighbor's transition to a democracy with free, fair elections. Such a transition would, in turn, increase political stability and reduce forced migration and the need to seek asylum throughout the region



* **ADDITIONAL CO-ORGANIZERS:**

- CONGREGATION OF SISTERS OF ST. AGNES
- JUSTICE 4 AVITI
- 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

