

Department Press Briefing – February 5, 2021

NED PRICE, DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

QUESTION: Yes. What is the U.S. position on Haiti's opposition efforts to oust President Moïse this Sunday, which is a disputed date for elections? Have U.S. officials spoken with the opposition about their transition plans? And what is the U.S. position on possible violence against protesters on Sunday?

MR PRICE: Well, when it comes to engagement with the opposition, our embassy does maintain regular communication with contacts across the political spectrum. Zooming out a bit and looking at our relationship with Haiti, we have, and together in this case with the OAS and other parties, consistently called on all political forces in Haiti to adhere to the spirit of their constitutional order. We've urged the Government of Haiti to organize free and fair legislative elections so that parliament may resume its rightful role.

In accordance with the OAS position on the need to proceed with the democratic transfer of executive power, a new elected president should succeed President Moïse when his term ends on February 2nd, 2022.

STAFF: Seventh.

MR PRICE: Sorry, February 7th, 2022. The Haitian people deserve the opportunity to elect their leaders and restore Haiti's democratic institutions. The United States continues to maintain that the Haitian Government should exercise restraint in issuing decrees, only using that power to schedule legislative elections and for matters of immediate threats to life, health, and safety until parliament is restored and can resume its constitutional responsibilities.

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