

Arranging a State Department correspondents briefing with Haiti's Ambassador to U.S. Bocchit Edmond

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To: shaun.tandon@afp.com <shaun.tandon@afp.com>

Dear Shaun,

I'm writing to you in hopes you'll be able to arrange a State Department correspondents briefing with Haiti's Ambassador to the U.S., Bocchit Edmond, to discuss developments over the last 48 hours. I can be reached at 631-335-2909 if it's more convenient for you to get on the phone.

Here are the points Ambassador Edmond can discuss:

- While the Haitian government respects the rights of Haitians to protest peacefully, calling for the president to be removed before his term ends in February 2022 is deeply undemocratic, and reminiscent of the tragic events on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol.
- Haitian presidents, by law, serve 5-year terms. President Moïse was inaugurated in February 2017. That means his term ends in February 2022.
- This has been verified by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, OAS, and even those who were responsible for drafting the 1987 Constitution have publicly stated this is the case.
- President Moïse has assigned an independent advisory committee to draft a new constitution to remedy the faults of the 1987 text and finally put Haiti on a better path of representative democracy.
- The 1987 constitution designed a distorted decision-making process in the legislature, leading to repeatedly postponed elections and presidents governing by executive order numerous times – without parliamentary oversight.
- The new constitution will have wide-ranging consultation and be put to a national referendum for the voters' approval in April this year.
- Nearly 90% of Haitians, both in and outside of Haiti, agree with redrafting the constitution.

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