

Questions from VOA editor, Sandra Lemaire

Attributable to Bocchit Edmond, Haiti's Ambassador to the United States

1- President Moise's statement yesterday that he has asked the Prime Minister to meet with the Foreign Minister to discuss asking the US to help Haiti stop illegal weapons traffick. President Moise says Haiti wants these people if they are Haitian to be deported back to Haiti so they can be judged. Have contacts already been made with the US on this?

A- I can't speak to contact with U.S. authorities on this topic. However, arms trafficking is a serious issue, our customs agents are frequently seizing large caches of illegal weapons from the U.S. I have no doubt we will find a resolution for this pressing issue.

2- On Monday a small group of protesters gathered in front of the Haitian Embassy in Washington to protest the U.S. support for President Moise. Did the ambassador see the protesters? Did he talk to them? Does he have a comment about this protest?

A- The U.S. is a democracy where opposing viewpoints can be freely expressed - the same is true in Haiti. That right is sacred.

3- Our reporter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico talked to 4 Haitians who are hoping to get permission to enter the US legally. They say they do not want to enter illegally. Is the Haitian Embassy in contact with Haitians at the border? What advice does the ambassador have for these people? Has there been any progress between Haiti and the Biden administration on immigration issues that affect Haitians?

A - The Embassy of Haiti in Washington, DC is in contact with our Embassy in Mexico and are monitoring this situation. We are in communication with the U.S. immigration authorities to identify the necessary steps to help our stranded citizens on the US-Mexico border. Now that the Biden administration has lifted a ban on green cards and is considering legislation on TPS, the Embassy of Haiti will continue to work with U.S. officials as we advocate for Haitians in the United States.

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