

To the Editor:

Re “Haiti Is a War Zone. Why Are We Banishing Our Neighbors There?” by Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré (Guest Essay, July 23):

General Honoré is right to expose the contradiction in sending Haitians back to a country the United States still considers too dangerous for its own citizens. But Temporary Protected Status should be understood not only as humanitarian protection. It is also an instrument of Haitian reconstruction and regional stability.

U.S. policy should maintain legal protection while establishing a U.S.-backed mechanism that mobilizes diaspora capital alongside institutional financing. Such a mechanism could match or leverage diaspora investments, insure investors against political violence and other country risks, provide preferential financing to Haitian small and medium-sized businesses operating in relatively secure regions, and offer targeted tax incentives for qualifying investments.

The priority should be productive private investment that creates jobs, supports decentralized development, restores infrastructure and expands access to basic services. Haitian organizations are already developing plans, financing initiatives and partnerships for recovery. Aligning U.S. efforts with these Haitian-led initiatives would replace fragmented and sometimes contradictory policies with a more coherent strategy—reduce forced migration, weaken gang recruitment, and enable more Haitians to return voluntarily or engage productively with both countries as conditions improve.

Extended legal protection for Haitians and a credible U.S.-backed channel for diaspora investment should be two pillars of the same Haiti stabilization strategy.

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