

## NEWS

CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLES B. RANGEL

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## CONG. RANGEL PROPOSES BAN ON HAITIAN DEPORTATIONS

Denouncing the military coup, Harlem lawmaker says aim of emergency measure is to protect innocent civilians threatened by violence during crisis

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10--Cong. Charles Rangel (D--NY) today introduced legislation that strongly denounces the military coup in Haiti and seeks suspension of deportations of Haitian refugees during the military crisis in Haiti.

"I strongly condemn the unconstitutional seizure of power by elements of the Haitian military and consequent violence," Cong. Rangel said. "While I commend the actions taken so far by our government and the OAS, we are morally bound to take steps to help the people who have been forced to leave Haiti, and this legislation would do that.

"The explosive situation in Haiti demands forthright action by our government to protect Haitian refugees in any way possible," Cong. Rangel said. "With the ever-present threat of violence in Haiti we must put an immediate end to the deportations. It has been an inhumane policy from the start that we practice against no other nationality."

The legislation urges the President and the U.S. Attorney General to suspend all deportations and exclusion proceedings for Haitians living in the United States, pending resolution of the current crisis in Haiti.

To assist Haitians fleeing violence in Haiti, the bill provides for the U.S. Coast Guard to rescue Haitian boat people at sea and bring them to safe haven in the United States.

The bill also grants Haitians in the U.S Temporary Protected Status, allowing them to work and conduct normal lives, a protection granted to other nationalities whose countries are in turmoil.

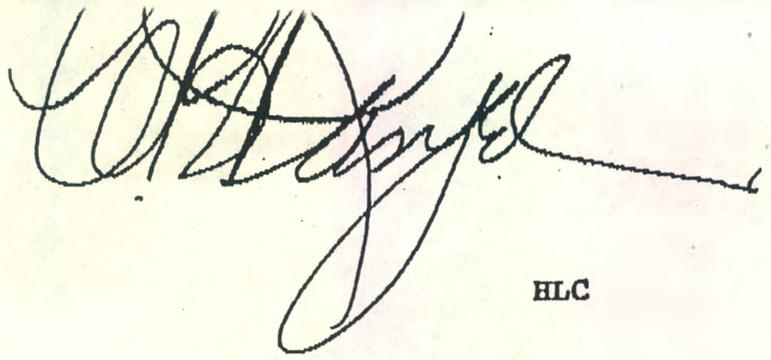
"The Haitian people have been treated most unjustly in this country for a long time," Cong. Rangel said. "Instead of welcoming them and extending our hand to the boat people, we have thrown them in jail and then sent them right back to the suffering they were trying to escape.

"This bill is an emergency measure to deal with the current crisis, but I would hope the President opens his heart and makes it permanent, so this country no longer has to face the embarrassment of the double-standard we have applied in dealing with Haitians compared to refugees of other nations," Cong. Rangel said.

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HLC

102d CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RANGEL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the unconstitutional seizure of power by elements of the Haitian military and consequent violence, and calling on the Attorney General to suspend the forced return of Haitian nationals in the United States during the crisis in Haiti.

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Whereas the people of Haiti have long suffered under the arbitrary rule of dictatorship rather than the democratic rule of law;

Whereas in 1986 Haitians from all sectors of society showed great courage in joining together to oust President-for-Life Jean Claude Duvalier;

Whereas the people of Haiti have repeatedly manifest their aspirations for democracy and a constitutional government, and equitable economic development as outlined in their Constitution ratified on March 19, 1987;

Whereas the 1987 presidential election was canceled due to widespread violence on the day of the election;

Whereas the Haitian people participated in a second internationally supervised election on December 16, 1990, and elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by almost 70 percent of the vote in an election that was recognized by international observations as free, fair, and open;

Whereas elements of the military on September 30, 1991, launched an armed attack against President Aristide and the people of Haiti;

Whereas President Aristide was forced to leave Haiti and a military junta has seized power; and

Whereas since President Aristide's departure military forces loyal to the junta have reportedly engaged in the widespread murder of Haitian citizens, armed intimidation of the Haitian

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legislature, and forced expulsion of an Organization of American States delegation sent to Haiti to help negotiate a peaceful solution to the conflict there: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That the Congress--*

3           (1) strongly condemns the unconstitutional seizure of  
4       power by the military junta in Haiti, its abridgement of  
5       civil and political rights for Haitian citizens, and its  
6       blatant disregard for the Haitian Constitution and  
7       international law;

8           (2) supports the Bush Administration's refusal to  
9       recognize the coup led by mutinous soldiers, its  
10      suspension of economic assistance to Haiti until  
11      President Aristide's government has been restored, and  
12      its diplomatic efforts to restore the legitimately  
13      elected government of President Aristide;

14          (3) strongly supports the Organization of American  
15      State's efforts to negotiate an end to the military  
16      seizure of power and the murder and mayhem that has  
17      followed;

18          (4) calls upon the Attorney General to--

19              (A) suspend all deportation and exclusion  
20      proceedings for Haitians in the United States pending  
21      a resolution of the deep political and military

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1 crisis in Haiti, as called for by the Inter-American  
2 Commission on Human Rights; and

3 (B) designate Haiti under section 244A(b)(1) of  
4 the Immigration and Nationality Act (relating to  
5 temporary protected status);

6 (5) calls upon the United States Coast Guard to begin  
7 a coordinated search and rescue at sea operation with  
8 respect to Haitians fleeing Haiti, stop the interdiction  
9 and refoulment of Haitian boat people, bring Haitians  
10 rescued at sea to the United States for temporary safe  
11 haven, and save those Haitians who flee the violence,  
12 persecution, and anarchy of their homeland, as called for  
13 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and

14 (6) calls upon the Aristide government, upon its  
15 restoration, to respect and promote the human rights of  
16 all Haitian citizens.