

ADA

Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.

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February 25, 1992

Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge you to support the Haitian Refugee Protection Act, H.R. 3844. The measure suspends for six months the repatriation of Haitian refugees in U.S. custody as of February 5, and instructs the Administration to report on the fate of refugees returned to Haiti.

The Haitian military regime has killed hundreds of its own people and is persecuting people who have been repatriated by the U.S. because they believe them to be sympathetic to President Aristide.

Under these circumstances, it is both immoral and illegal to return refugees. It is dangerous and irresponsible for the State Department to claim to have no evidence of persecution. Amnesty International and Americas Watch have documented the refugees' claims of persecution.

Haitians have been treated far worse than others in similar situations. For example, Cubans found in boats are brought to the U.S. and, after one year, are eligible for permanent resident status at the discretion of the Attorney General. In some cases, a Coast Guard cutter has picked up both Cubans and Haitians and has taken the Cubans to Miami, and the Haitians back to Port-au-Prince.

The current repatriation process is inequitable, wrong and should be stopped immediately. We ask that you support Congressman Mazzoli's legislation, which suspends the forced repatriation of Haitians seeking refuge from political repression and violence in their homeland.

Sincerely,



Amy Isaacs
National Director

Note: ADA's new address 1625 K Street, Suite 1150, Washington, D.C. 20006, phone 785-5980, FAX 785-5969