



November 18, 2021

Field Office Director Juan Acosta
Juan.L.Acosta@ice.dhs.gov
Assistant Field Office Director William S. Shaw
William.S.Shaw@ice.dhs.gov
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
El Paso Field Office
11541 Montana Ave, Suite E
El Paso, TX 79936
Via e-mail

Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer Azucena Sanchez
Azucena.Sanchez@ice.dhs.gov
Supervisory Detention and Deportation Officer Edward Gober
Edward.M.Gober@ice.dhs.gov
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Torrance County Detention Facility
209 County Road A049
Estancia, NM 87016
Via e-mail

Re: Re: Access to legal services for Haitian immigrants at Torrance County Detention Facility

Mr. Acosta, Mr. Shaw, Ms. Sanchez, and Mr. Gober,

On behalf of attorney Allegra Love and Innovation Law Lab, we write to follow up on our requests submitted to you on November 5, 2021. Since that date, access to legal services for Haitian immigrants detained at the Torrance County Detention Facility (“Torrance”) continues to be inadequate and in violation of law and the PBNDS.

The undersigned have received no response to our letter of November 5, 2021. Since submission of that letter, Ms. Love has been granted access to provide an in-person legal rights presentation as requested. However, the following requests have not been met:

- By November 10, 2021, provide Ms. Love and Innovation Law Lab with a roster of all Haitian immigrants detained at Torrance (including names, A-numbers, and date and type of next immigration court hearing);
- By November 10, 2021, provide a written notice in Haitian Kreyol describing the availability of pro bono legal representatives to the Haitian immigrants detained at the facility with hotline information for Ms. Love and Innovation Law Lab through the El Paso Immigration Collaborative (“EPIC”);
- Immediately, permit Haitian immigrants to call the EPIC pro bono hotline without charge in a confidential, private manner;

- Immediately, put measures in place to allow detainees to schedule individual legal consultations by phone or video within one day of request; and
- Halt removal of any Haitian immigrant before they have had the opportunity to consult with counsel and have had access to information about their legal rights in Kreyol.

It is our understanding that as of November 9, 2021, there were 81 Haitian immigrants detained at Torrance. We remain deeply concerned that these individuals are being deprived of their legal rights, including access to counsel, and are being subject to disparate treatment in their removal proceedings. We request that you immediately grant the access requested above. Please provide a written response to this letter no later than Monday, November 22, 2021, at 5 PM MST.

Sincerely,

INNOVATION LAW LAB



JORDAN CUNNINGS, Legal Director
jordan@innovationlawlab.org
(971) 277-2857



TESS HELLGREN, Deputy Legal Director
tess@innovationlawlab.org
(352) 559-0897

ACLU OF NEW MEXICO



LEON HOWARD, Legal Director
lhoward@aclu-nm.org
(505) 266-5915



REBECCA SHEFF, Senior Staff Attorney
rsheff@aclu-nm.org
(505) 266-5915

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT



MATTHEW VOGEL, Senior Staff Attorney
matt@nipnlg.org
(504) 264-3613



AMBER QURESHI, Staff Attorney
amber@nipnlg.org
(202) 470-2082

HAITIAN BRIDGE ALLIANCE



NICOLE PHILLIPS, Legal Director
nphillips@haitianbridge.org
(949) 603-5751

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kate Goettel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" and last name "Goettel" clearly distinguishable.

KATE MELLODY GOETTEL, Legal Director
kgoettel@immcouncil.org
(202) 507-7552