

**Contact President Bush and Secretary Ridge: Ask for
Temporary Protected Status for Haitians Currently in the U.S.**

October 8, 2004

Close to 2,000 Haitians have died after floodwaters raged through the island in the wake of tropical storm Jeanne, U.N. officials say. At least another 884 are missing.

Yesterday Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue requested Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians presently in the U.S.A.

In addition to the havoc wreaked by the storm, continuing political unrest, conflict, and chaos make the country extremely dangerous. Requiring Haitians to return to their country under present conditions seriously threaten their security.

Your advocacy in support of Latortue's request is crucial at this time.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will permit Haitians presently in the United States to reside here and qualify for work authorization for 18 months. It would thus guarantee their well-being and safety until the country has recovered from the recent storms and there is political stability in the country.

-Prepared by Church World Service of the National Council of Churches.

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CALL and/or WRITE THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY RIDGE IMMEDIATELY

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1111
Fax: 202-456-2461

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
2001 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

202-282-8000
FAX: 202-282-8401

DATE

Dear Pres. Bush / Mr. Ridge:

Please grant the request of Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue of Haiti and give Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians presently in the United States. Close to 2,000 people have died in Haiti in the wake of tropical storm

Jeanne. Another thousand are missing. Over 3,000 died near the Haiti / Dominican Republic border in May of this year. Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue has declared the area that was struck by Tropical Storm Jeanne a disaster area.

This grave natural disaster coupled with the present political unrest and violence warrants this action to assure the safety of Haitians presently in the United States.

TPS would permit Haitians presently in the United States to remain here and qualify for work authorization. Eighteen months of TPS will assure their safety until the country recovers from the severe storm damage, elections are held, and order and security are restored in Haiti.

TPS program was established to provide protection to people who are temporarily unable to return to their homelands. Please help the people in Haiti by permitting their friends and relatives in the United States to remain here and to continue to send support to a nation in crisis. Please affirm the United States tradition of caring for and protecting persons in vulnerable situations by granting TPS to Haitians.

Sincerely,

Your name and contact information