



Haitian Lawyers Association

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On the 8th anniversary of an earthquake that nearly devastated Haiti, we, members of the Haitian Lawyers Association, unfortunately, find ourselves addressing disparaging remarks attributed to President Trump. We ask him to clarify why citizens of one country are 'more desirable' than those of another and why the US does 'not need more Haitians.' These remarks are vulgar, disrespectful and do not characterize the Haitian people or the Haitian Americans living in the United States. As a group of Haitian-American professionals who are contributing to the betterment of this country each and every day, we deplore the debasement of our country of origin and of our people. Haitian immigrants contribute to America as attorneys, physicians, nurses, engineers, professors, journalists, teachers, entertainers, athletes, and yes, among other things farm workers and laborers. We know that our contribution is part of what helps make America great.

The 2010 earthquake clearly demonstrated the resilience of the Haitian people. As the country continues to rebuild and progress from this and other natural catastrophes, we are reminded of the Haitian pride, which dates back to 1804 as being the first country of African descent to gain its independence. Haitian pride is alive and present in all the contributions Haitian immigrants have given to the history of America. This country was built on the backs of people brought to the United States from the very nations which President Trump expresses disdain.

We call upon all leaders to stand in solidarity with the Haitian people and the other targeted communities (Africans and Salvadorians) because those who do not condemn these statements are silently accepting them.

