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RECORD ID: 9405711
RECEIVED: 14 JUL 94 12

TO: LAKE

FROM: CAMPORESI, FRANCO

DOC DATE: 01 JUL 94
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: HAITI
HUMAN RIGHTS

IMMIGRATION
MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTL / AI LTR REQUESTING US GRANT ASSLUM TO HAITIAN MIGRANTS

ACTION: NFAR PER SCHWARTZ

DUE DATE: 18 JUL 94 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: ROSSIN

LOGREF:

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

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Z 94071412 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
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X 95010419 NFAR PER SCHWARTZ

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FOR ACTION
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DOC 1 OF 1

amnesty international

Gruppe 37 Luzern

Postfach 2030 CH-6002 Luzern

5711
Staff to Larry Rossin

Franco Camporesi
Bireggstreet 5
6003 Lucerne
Switzerland

July 1994

Dear National Security Adviser

I welcome President Clinton's announcement of a **change in US policy towards Haitian asylum-seekers** as a step in the right direction.

Nevertheless, I am concerned that essential safeguards required by international standards for the protection of refugees will still not be provided under the terms of the new US policy which will entitle Haitian asylum-seekers to the right to present their claims for political asylum aboard US vessels or in other countries in the region.

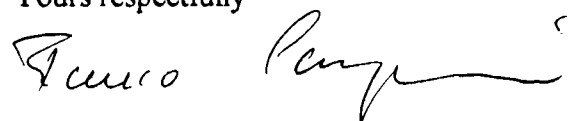
I would also like to express my concern that in the in-country processing system (ICP) (i.e. processing within Haiti) does not provide certain fundamental safeguards either, such as the right to appropriate legal advice and an effective review if the claim is rejected. Moreover, asylum-seekers risk drawing attention to themselves by going to the office where applications are processed and applicants may have to wait months for an interview date, thus risking becoming victims of human rights violations whilst waiting for their case to be considered.

Furthermore, cases have been known of forcibly returned asylum-seekers being arrested and subjected to ill-treatment whilst held in detention and cases of asylum-claims made by people at risk of human rights violations being rejected.

I would like to stress that if the US does not provide Haitian asylum-seekers with the essential safeguards required by international standards for the protection of refugees, the US Government is putting them at risk of serious human rights violations in Haiti. I also urge the US Government to support Bill H.R. 3663, known as the "Haitian Refugee Fairness Act".

Finally I strongly urge that the US Government further reforms its policy regarding Haitian asylum-seekers by ensuring that none are returned to Haiti unless their claims have first been fully examined in an asylum procedure in accordance with international standards.

Yours respectfully



amnesty international ist eine weltweite Bewegung, die sich unparteiisch für die Freilassung von gewaltlosen politischen Gefangenen einsetzt. Sie wendet sich uneingeschränkt gegen Folter und Todesstrafe und verlangt für alle politischen Gefangenen faire Gerichtsverfahren innert angemessener Frist.

Mouvement universel et indépendant, Amnesty International s'engage de façon concrète et impartiale pour la libération de tous les prisonniers d'opinion non-violents, pour un jugement équitable des autres prisonniers politiques et pour l'abolition de la torture et de la peine de mort.

July 1994

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find a letter, in which I am expressing my concerns about **the failure of the US Government not to provide Haitian asylum-seekers with the essential safeguards required by international standards for the protection of refugees.**

Please notice, that I am sending the same letter to the following authorities:

1. *President of the USA, Bill Clinton*
2. *Secretary of State, Christopher Warren*
3. *National Security Adviser, Anthony Lake*
4. *Chairman of the Subcommittee on Intern. Law, Immigration and Refugees, Romano L. Mazzoli*
5. *Member of the Subcommittee on International Law, Immigration and Refugees, Bill McCollum*
6. *Chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, Robert G. Torricelli*
7. *Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Edward M. Kennedy*
8. *Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Alan K. Simpson*
9. *Chairman of the S. on Western Hemisphere and Peace Corps Affairs, Christopher J. Dodd*
10. *Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Samuel R. Berger*

Copies of this letter I am sending to the following persons and media:

1. *Member of Congress, Mrs. Carrie Meek*
2. *Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Ms. Doris Meissner*
3. *Assistant Secretary of State for H.R. and Domestic Affairs, John Shattuck*
4. *Washington Post*
5. *New York Times*
6. *Haiti en Marche*

Yours respectfully

