

March 15, 2024

Jim Berk  
CEO

To our Friends and Colleagues in the Haitian and Jewish Communities:

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It is imperative, even during these unprecedented challenges that the Jewish people are confronting, not to forget tragedies that are impacting our neighbors. We specifically refer to the situation in Haiti, with current chaos, violence, death, and destruction suffered by the civilian population.

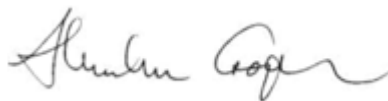
The Simon Wiesenthal Center wants to express its sympathy to the Haitian nation and our Haitian neighbors here in the United States. We do so because of our common humanity but also with appreciation for solidarity that Haiti has historically expressed with the Jewish people. We remember that in the late 1930s Haiti opened its doors for 300 hundred Jews that found safe haven from Nazi Germany and because, just months ago, when so many others were silent, our neighbors here in the United States expressed their solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in the aftermath of October 7th.

At a time when the Jewish people needed allies the most, the National Haitian American Elected Official Network (NHEAON) was among the very first to issue a statement offering their prayers and expression of solidarity with our people.

We remember the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti and how Israel and the American Jewish community were among the first to respond and how our peoples have time and again stood together.

Now, Haitians are confronted with a man-made disaster. When the people are facing criminal gangs forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes while countless others have been killed and maimed, we *must* express our solidarity with their suffering and together with other Jewish groups express our solidarity to our neighbors in the Haitian diaspora and pray for the well-being of the people of Haiti.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Abraham Cooper  
Associate Dean  
Director, Global Social Action Agenda



Michael D. Cohen  
Eastern Director  
Simon Wiesenthal Center