

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION**

OPPRESSION OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE

1993

Whereas Haiti has been without a legitimately elected government since September 1991;

Whereas there is no freedom of assembly and little freedom of speech in Haiti;

Whereas there are widespread abuses of human rights in Haiti, including torture, murder, rape, and false arrests, confirmed by the U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights and by numerous personal testimonies;

Whereas the Torah (Hebrew Bible) calls us to imitate God by doing justice for the oppressed, giving bread to the hungry, and freeing those who are bound up;

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the United States urging that 1000 human rights observers be sent to Haiti in order to lessen the wanton violence in that land;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling upon him to use American influence to restore constitutional democracy to the people of Haiti;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling upon him to use American influence to guarantee the safe return of the Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the duly elected President of the people of Haiti;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling upon him to rescind the order that provides for forced repatriation of Haitian refugees. Forced repatriation violates international law and the moral principles of the Torah;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling for new U.S. policy that offers temporary protection to Haitians who are determined by rigorously fair procedures to be in danger of persecution;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling for new U.S. policy that provides for the resettlement in this country of Haitian refugees determined to be in danger of persecution; we recommend that resettlement occur throughout different areas of the United States so that no one community has the sole responsibility for providing for them;

That the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association write the President of the United States calling for the release of the 252 Haitians who have been detained at the United States base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and who have tested H.I.V. positive.