



## ***Committee on International Justice and Peace***

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3160

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/JPHD • FAX 202-541-3339

February 12, 2016

S. Em. Cardinal Chibly Langlois  
Évêque de Les Cayes  
Président, Conférence Episcopale de Haiti  
137 rue Antoine Simon  
HT-8110 Les Cayes, Haiti

Your Eminence:

At this time of continuing uncertainty in your beloved country of Haiti, I write to express the solidarity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) with the Church and people of your nation. Your extensive efforts in the cause of justice and peace, joined to those of your brother bishops and the entire Church community in Haiti, reflect a long history of courageous leadership in the face of conflict. You have our deepest respect for your many efforts to overcome violence, address the root causes of social discord, and promote a just resolution of national challenges. The recent Statement issued by the Haitian Bishops' Conference (CEH), is a fine example of this inspired leadership on behalf of the Church. We have shared your Statement with the Secretary of State of the United States. A copy of this letter is enclosed

As Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, observed on the Fifth Anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, "I would like to encourage the bishops of Haiti, all the priests and all those engaged in pastoral work of any kind, so that by their zeal and their fraternal communion they may inspire in the faithful renewed efforts in the area of Christian formation and of joyful and fruitful evangelization." (January 10, 2015).

Please be assured of my sincere expressions of solidarity, support and friendship extended on behalf of the Committee on International Justice and Peace. We look forward to continuing communication with you and your brother bishops in Haiti, and to being of any assistance that you may find advisable during these challenging times for your country.

Praying that God will continue to bless your work as pastors and peace builders, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú

Bishop of Las Cruces

Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace

cc.: S. E. Mons. Joseph Gontran Décoste, S.J  
Évêque du Diocèse de Jérémie  
Secrétaire Général, Conférence Episcopale de Haiti  
B.p. 1572, 56 Angles rue Piquant et Lamarre  
HT-6110 Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Enclosure



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February 11, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

As Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I write to share the concerns of my fellow bishops in Haiti regarding the unsettled political situation in that country.

The history of political and economic turmoil in Haiti, and the role of Church officials in response, are extensive. Attached please find the French original version, as well as an unofficial English translation, of a recent Statement of the Haitian Bishops' Conference. In this document, the bishops condemn any resort to violence, and call for dialogue and reconciliation as the means to effectuate a just and effective political solution.

On behalf of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the USCCB, we ask the U.S. Government to promote vigorously the principles set forth in the Statement by the bishops of Haiti.

As a major international presence in the region, our nation has a special moral responsibility to help protect the lives, dignity and future of all our Haitian brothers and sisters. This course will require heeding the call and wise advice, in particular, of the Church's bishops, ministers and workers, as well as those of human rights advocates. These leaders and ministers are in the forefront of service to the Haitian people in their quest for a peaceful and just resolution of the political crisis in that nation.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú  
Bishop of Las Cruces  
Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace

Enclosure: Statement, Haitian Bishops' Conference (French original and unofficial English translation)

# NOTE DE LA CEH SUR LA RESOLUTION DE LA CRISE POST-ELECTORALE 2015-2016

Texte publié le lundi 1 février 2016 à 18:46



1- La Conférence des évêques catholiques d'Haïti (CEH), réunie en assemblée plénière extraordinaire en son siège salue le courage du peuple haïtien en ces jours si difficiles sur le plan social, politique et économique du pays ;

2- La CEH avait sollicité, de manière informelle, pour faciliter les échanges et établir des passerelles de dialogue entre certains acteurs impliqués dans la crise actuelle. Elle l'avait fait pour débloquer les communications difficiles ou apparemment impossibles : d'autres instances ont fait de même. Ces citoyens haïtiens, qui ont œuvré pour une solution négociée de sortie de crise, ont fait de propositions qui ont été compilées dans un texte de base d'accord minimal à finaliser. Beaucoup d'autres propositions de sortie de crise en circulation expriment une grande préoccupation des uns et des autres quant à la gouvernabilité du pays après l'échéance constitutionnelle ;

3- Nous le savons tous : le 7 février 2016 met fin au mandat constitutionnel du président de la République. Il est grand temps que le peuple sache comment nous allons gérer le pays après cette date. Or, la CEH constate qu'aucun accord n'a été jusqu'à présent adopté en vue de résoudre de manière consensuelle la crise actuelle. Elle croit que tous les acteurs politiques et étatiques doivent travailler à trouver, avant ce 7 février 2016, une solution négociée et acceptable à la crise en faisant preuve de sagesse, de perspicacité, de modération et de patriotisme. Car il est impératif de préparer tout le peuple haïtien à gérer les jours qui viennent en citoyen responsable.

4- La CEH encourage instamment toutes les forces vives du pays à se mettre ensemble en vue d'arriver à un accord s'inspirant de la Constitution et de la sagesse haïtienne pour garantir la

continuité de l'État et la stabilité politique du pays dans le respect des vies, des biens et des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine ;

5- En conséquence, la CEH exhorte tous les acteurs et le peuple haïtien tout entier à éviter des déclarations et des actes susceptibles d'attiser les tensions, d'inciter à la violence et d'aggraver ainsi la situation déjà très fragile du pays. La CEH les encourage fortement à trouver un consensus dans le plus bref délai pour la consolidation de l'unité nationale, la promotion de la culture démocratique et le bien supérieur de la nation ;

6- La CEH renouvelle au peuple haïtien, sa détermination à l'accompagner sur le chemin du dialogue, de la Paix et du développement, surtout en ces moments chargés d'incertitudes pour sa sécurité et son avenir.

7- Que, par l'intercession maternelle de Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours, Dieu bénisse et protège notre chère Haïti !

Fait, au Siège de la CEH, le 28 Janvier 2016, en la Fête de Saint Thomas d'Aquin.

<p><b>S. Em Cardinal Chibly Langlois</b>  Évêques du Diocèse des Cayes  Président de la CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>S. E. Mgr Yves Marie Péan, csc</b>  Évêques du Diocèse des Gonaïves  ...</p>
<p><b>S. E. Mgr Max Leroy Mésidor</b>  Archevêque du Cap-Haïtien  Vice-Président de la CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>S. E. Mgr Pierre André Dumas</b>  Évêque du Diocèse d'Anse à Veau et de Miragoâne  ...</p>
<p><b>S. E. Mgr Joseph Gontran Décoste, sj</b>  Évêque du Diocèse de Jérémie  Secrétaire Général de la CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>S. E. Mgr Launay Saturne</b>  Évêque du Diocèse de Jacmel  ...</p>
<p><b>S. E. Mgr Marie Erick G. Toussaint</b>  Évêque auxiliaire de Port-au-Prince  Économe de la CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>S. E. Mgr Quesnel Alphonse, smm</b>  Évêque du Diocèse de Fort-Liberté  ...</p>
<p><b>S. E. Mgr Guire Poulard</b>  Archevêque Métropolitain de Port-au-Prince  ...</p>	<p><b>Mgr Faublas Louis</b>  Administrateur Diocésain  Diocèse de Hinche</p>
<p><b>S. E. Mgr Pierre-Antoine Paulo, omi</b>  Évêque du Diocèse de Port-de-Paix</p>	

# NOTE OF THE CEH ON RESOLVING THE POST-ELECTION CRISIS 2015-2016

Text published Monday, February 1, 2016 at 18:46

1- The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Haiti (CEH), meeting in extraordinary plenary session at its headquarters, salutes the courage of the Haitian people in these difficult days regarding the social, political and economic future of the country;

2- The CEH had asked, informally, to facilitate exchanges and build bridges of dialogue between some actors involved in the current crisis. It had to unlock difficult or seemingly impossible communications: others have done the same. These Haitians, who worked for a negotiated solution to end the crisis, have made proposals that were compiled in a minimum basic text to be finalized. Many other outstanding crisis proposals express great concern as to the governability of the country after the constitutional deadline;

3- We all know: February 7, 2016 completes the constitutional mandate of President of the Republic. It is high time that the people know how the country will be governed after that date. But the CEH noted that no agreement has so far been adopted in order to solve in a consensual manner the current crisis. It believes that all political and state actors must work to find, before the February 7, 2016 date, a negotiated and mutually acceptable solution to the crisis with wisdom, insight, moderation and patriotism. As it is imperative to prepare all the Haitian people to manage the coming days as responsible citizens.

4- The CEH strongly encourages all forces of the country to come together in order to reach an agreement based on the Constitution and Haitian wisdom, to ensure the continuity of the state and political stability in the country, respect for life, property and fundamental rights of the human person;

5. Accordingly, the CEH urges all actors and the Haitian people as a whole to avoid statements and actions that could inflame tensions, inciting violence and aggravating the already fragile situation of the country. The CEH strongly encourages finding a consensus in the shortest time for the consolidation of national unity, promotion of democratic culture and the greater good of the nation;

6- The CEH renews to the Haitian people, its determination to accompany them on the path of dialogue, peace and development, especially in these times of uncertainty concerning its security and its future.

7. May, by the Maternal intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, God bless and protect our beloved Haiti!

Done at the Headquarters of the CEH, January 28, 2016, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas.

<p><b>His Eminence Cardinal Chibly Langlois</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Les Cayes  President of the CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>Monsignor Yves Marie Péan SE, CSC</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Gonaives</p>
<p><b>Bishop Max Leroy Mésidor</b>  Archbishop of Cap-Haitien  Vice-President of the CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>Bishop Pierre André Dumas</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Anse à Veau and  Miragoane  ...</p>
<p><b>Bishop Joseph Gontran Décoste, sj</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Jeremiah  Secretary General of the CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>Bishop Launay Saturne</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Jacmel  ...</p>
<p><b>Bishop Marie Erick Toussaint G.</b>  Auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince  Bursar of the CEH  ...</p>	<p><b>Bishop Alphonse Quesnel, SMM</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Fort-Liberté  ...</p>
<p><b>Mgr Guire Poulard SE</b>  Metropolitan Archbishop of Port-au-Prince  ...</p>	<p><b>Mgr Louis Faublas</b>  diocesan administrator  Diocese of Hinche</p>
<p><b>Bishop Pierre-Antoine Paulo OMI</b>  Bishop of the Diocese of Port-de-Paix</p>	