Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We urge you to utilize all available resources to locate and rescue the seventeen missionaries and children abducted in Haiti on October 16, 2021. Given your administration's failure to safeguard Americans in Afghanistan, we believe it is more important than ever to demonstrate on the world stage that the United States of America will *always* protect its citizens.

The group of sixteen Americans and one Canadian – including five children – were working in Haiti as part of Christian Aid Ministries, a major U.S.-based missionary organization known for providing humanitarian assistance and spreading Christian values throughout the Caribbean. In a brazen attack by members of the "400 Mawozo" gang, these missionaries were abducted from their vehicle at gunpoint after visiting an orphanage outside Port-au-Prince. This gang has become infamous in Haiti for mass kidnappings, including the abduction of several Catholic priests and nuns earlier this year.

As you know, the efforts of non-governmental organizations in Haiti are hugely important. This is especially true now as the political and security situation continues to deteriorate in the wake of the devastating earthquake in August and the assassination of the country's president in July. Many Haitians rely on Christian Aid Ministries and other charitable groups for assistance, and we fear this latest attack may discourage missionaries when their work is needed most.

It is our understanding that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) deployed agents over the weekend to assist the U.S. Department of State in locating the group and securing their release. This is a good first step. Unfortunately, since you violated your promise to evacuate all Americans from Afghanistan prior to withdrawing U.S. military forces, we have little confidence in your administration's willingness to protect U.S. citizens abroad.

As Americans pray and hope for the safe return of these missionaries, our nation looks to you to fulfill your duty to protect U.S. citizens overseas. We urge you to bring the full weight of the U.S. government to bear on resolving this situation and demonstrate conclusively that Americans abroad are sacrosanct.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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