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June 19, 2015

His Excellency José Tomás Pérez
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic
1715 22nd Street, NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Pérez:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States, I write to express concern regarding migrant repatriation plans set to be put into effect by the Government of the Dominican Republic. We strongly urge the Government of the Dominican Republic to consider alternate ways to address the identification and registration of any individuals impacted by the 2013 ruling of the Dominican Constitutional Court.

Our organization agrees with the recommendation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, requesting that the migrant and stateless population in the Dominican Republic be protected from deportation. Serious consideration must be given to the impact of any large scale deportation and repatriation plans. As an organization fighting to protect the rights of Latino immigrants, refugees, and other stateless individuals in the United States of America, many of them Dominican Republic immigrants, we understand the devastating impact that deportation has on families. As the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has stated, “preventing the expulsions of stateless Dominicans...[is important] to avoid creating a new refugee situation.”

We urge the Government of the Dominican Republic to consider the potentially harmful message that these deportations would have not only on Dominican society, but the worldwide refugee and immigrant community. Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns, and we hope to see a just resolution for the stateless residents of the Dominican Republic.

Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy, at latorres@lulac.org should you have any questions.

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President