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Petition

# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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ASIA WATCH · HELSINKI WATCH  
MIDDLE EAST WATCH · FUND FOR FREE EXPRESSION

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□ REPLY TO: 1522 K ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 (202) 371-6592 FAX (202) 371-0124

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Research Associates

May 31, 1989  
The Hon. Carla Hills  
U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Ms. Hills:

Enclosed please find a preliminary report by Americas Watch concerning worker rights of Haitian cane-cutters in the Dominican Republic. This document was prepared for the I.L.O., which is conducting a study of the problem in the near future.

At this time Americas Watch wishes to submit our preliminary report to the U.S. Trade Representative as a petition, pursuant to Section 502(b)(8) of the Trade Act. We respectfully request that it be reviewed by the USTR in the context of its annual review of GSP beneficiaries.

As the enclosed document notes, worker rights abuses suffered by Haitian cane-cutters in the Dominican Republic include forced labor, child labor, limits on the right to organize, and inhumane working conditions. These worker rights problems are referenced explicitly in the worker rights statute governing participation in the GSP.

As noted in the attached report, Americas Watch will be following up our preliminary fact-finding mission with another mission this summer. We will issue a full-length report at that time. I will make our additional information on this subject available to the USTR in writing and in testimony this fall.

Thank you for reviewing the situation of labor rights of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic.

Sincerely,  


Holly Burkhalter  
Washington Director  
Human Rights Watch

■  
AFRICA WATCH  
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Executive Director  
RICHARD CARVER  
Research Director  
JOYCE MENDES-COLE  
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## HAITIAN SUGAR-CANE CUTTERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### A Preliminary Report

AMERICAS WATCH

May 1989

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