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U.S. Cracks Down on Haitian Gang Affiliates with Deportation Measures

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The United States has moved to deport lawful permanent residents found to be supporting violent Haitian gangs, according to Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The decision targets individuals linked to Viv Ansanm, an armed gang alliance labeled a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in May by the administration of President Donald Trump. The policy underscores Washington's intent to uphold national security by refusing protection to those aiding criminal networks abroad.

Secretary Rubio emphasized that the U.S. will not tolerate the exploitation of its immigration system by those who support terrorist or criminal operations. “The United States will not allow individuals to enjoy the benefits of legal status in our country while they are facilitating the actions of violent organizations or supporting criminal terrorist organizations,” he stated during Monday’s briefing. The crackdown aligns with longstanding policy efforts to combat transnational crime and maintain strict standards for residency.

Viv Ansanm, meaning “Living Together” in Haitian Creole, is a loosely structured coalition of heavily armed gangs that has seized control of much of Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince. The group has been held responsible for widespread violence, extortion, and the displacement of thousands. Since the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, Haiti has descended into near-lawless conditions. Between October 2024 and June 2025 alone, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported close to 5,000 killings amid escalating gang warfare.

By classifying Viv Ansanm as an FTO, the Trump-era policy framework has enabled the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) to pursue deportations and prosecute those providing material support. Lawful permanent residents, commonly referred to as “green card holders”, who are found to have aided or collaborated with the gang, could lose their status and face removal under federal law.

Though exact numbers were not provided, officials confirmed that the enforcement action is already underway. Homeland Security sources noted that cooperation with law enforcement agencies in the Caribbean has been instrumental in tracking individuals involved in gang coordination and cross-border criminal activity. The Department of Justice has declined to comment on ongoing investigations, citing legal sensitivities.

Supporters of the policy argue that it is a necessary measure to protect American communities from the reach of foreign-based criminal operations. Critics, however, contend that more needs to be done to address the root causes of instability in Haiti, although such debate lies largely outside the scope of immigration enforcement.

This move marks a firm stance on maintaining the integrity of U.S. residency, especially at a time when international criminal networks continue to expand their influence beyond borders. As Rubio concluded, “Legal immigration must be respected, but it cannot be a shield for those who endanger others through violence and lawlessness.”