

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010 9:00 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Border Issues Update

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**From:** Reynoso, Julissa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010 5:40 PM  
**To:** Haiti DLC Distro; Schwartz, Eric P; Robinson, David M; Powell, Catherine  
**Cc:** De Pirro, Velia M  
**Subject:** FW: Border Issues Update

Border still functional and migration apparently under control. Julissa

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**From:** Norman, Alain G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010 4:47 PM  
**To:** Reynoso, Julissa; De Pirro, Velia M; Smith, Willard T; Schadrack, Geoffrey F  
**Cc:** Schimmel, Mike R; Lambert, Christopher A; Fitzgibbons, Timothy T  
**Subject:** Border Issues Update

The latest regarding border issues:

- a) Per EmbOff, border at Jimani remained disorganized but functional as in recent days.
- b) The flow of persons across the border is constant, but no mass influx. However, official figures under-report the numbers of people crossing, as the data reflect only those being processed correctly. Some Haitians are sneaking across the border, per USG official. Haitian media also report "tens of thousands" leaving Port-au-Prince, some for the DR border. However, police officials say they have not seen increased illegal entry attempts in the mountains around the Jimani crossing.
- c) A Haitian immigration official said that as of 1pm on 1/19 he had issued approximately 600 laissez-passes to travelers without documents. Dominican authorities at the other side of the border crossing are generally turning away travelers without a valid visa or official travel document. Medical emergency cases continue being allowed in.
- d) The border crossing at Jimani was closed for 45 minutes after the Haitian colonel in charge of customs on the Haitian side began demanding "manifests" from vehicles trying to bring assistance across. GODR officials managed to talk the colonel into backing down, but plan to seek his removal. (Note: It is unclear whether this was an attempt at rent-seeking by the Haitian official, but some reporting implied that. End Note).
- e) As the next Market Day in Jimani will be Thursday, efforts are already underway to see if market activities that day can be organized so as not to block/hamper through-put of assistance / evacuation vehicles.

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