

AI Members Only

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To: Section Campaign Coordinators
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From: Caribbean Team, Americas Regional Programme

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ACTION CIRCULAR July 2009 – March 2010

JAMAICA: THE GOVERNMENT MUST ACT SWIFTLY ON ITS PUBLIC SECURITY PLEDGES

Summary

This action circular accompanies the report *Jamaica: 'Public security reforms and human rights in Jamaica'* (AI Index: AMR 38/001/2009), launched on 21 July 2009, and contains the campaign strategy, objectives and recommendations, as well as information about tools for activism.

Duration of this action

July 2009 to end of March 2010

Distribution

Please ensure that this action circular is distributed and discussed with individuals and groups who will be involved in the planning and implementation of this Action.

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In April 2008 AI launched the report "*Let them kill each other*" – *Public security in Jamaica's inner-cities*" (AMR 38/001/2008). The report examined the precarious situation of violence, stigmatisation, exclusion and deprivation in which thousands of Jamaicans live in inner-city communities. Caught between criminal gangs and violent policing methods, people living in these communities are denied access to effective state protection of their rights to life and security, perpetuating poverty and exclusion. The report and accompanying campaign called on the Jamaican authorities to show the political will needed to cut homicide rates in the inner-cities and address the root causes of the violence; to introduce human rights-based policing; to reduce killings by police; and to reform the justice system to improve access to justice, especially for the poorest sectors of Jamaican society. During

the launch of that report, everyone AI spoke to, including authorities, agreed that there was a real window of opportunity to implement important changes to improve the public security of all Jamaicans. The discussions no longer revolved around why reforms are needed, and not even what those reforms should be, but how and when they will be implemented.

An AI delegation visited Jamaica in February 2009 to examine what progress had been made by the government in their attempts to act on pledges to implement reforms to improve the public security situation, by speaking to the authorities, representatives of civil society organizations and to residents of inner-city communities. The current report presents an outline of the situation a year after the launch of the previous report and analyzes evidence of the government's commitment to tackle the problem in a comprehensive way.

As you will see from the report, AI's analysis reveals a mixed assessment of the situation:

Police reform: A report emerging from the strategic review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) was issued in June 2008. The strategic review was conducted by a panel consisting of criminologists from the Caribbean and South Africa and police personnel from the US, UK and Canada. The vast majority of the report's 124 recommendations were approved by the government and the implementation phase was officially launched in September 2008. However, so far only preparatory work has been done and the process remains slow.

Police accountability: An Independent Commission of Investigations Bill is currently in discussion before a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. The purpose of the Commission is for independent and effective investigations to be undertaken into human rights abuses by the security forces to tackle the almost total impunity for serious human rights abuses enjoyed by the JCF. A year after its submission to Parliament the bill has yet to be made law despite reiterated statements by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that the establishment of an independent commission to investigate excesses by the security forces was a priority for the government.

Justice system reform: There have been moves to reduce the backlog of criminal cases including increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, as well as the number of prosecutors and staff in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. However, two years after the release of the Justice System Task Force report, implementation of its recommendations is still in its inception phase.

Levels of criminal violence (including homicide) and police killings: The homicide rate increased by 2.3% in 2008, with 1,611 murders recorded. Although the figures for the first five months of 2009 show a fall of 8.7 per cent over the same period in 2008, the number of killings remained high with 628 murders reported between January and May 2009. The proportion of victims who are children under 18 grew significantly in 2008. Many inner-city communities remain at the mercy of gang control and have been abandoned by the state. Police killings fell by 20% in 2008, but were still extremely high with 224 people allegedly killed by the security forces. This year has seen no improvement with 84 people killed by police in the first five months of the year, an increase of 58 per cent over the same period in 2008.

KEY MESSAGES

- the public security crisis continues: the rate of police killings and homicides in Jamaica remains very high, with little progress in terms of investigation and prosecution
- the violence disproportionately affects residents of inner-city communities who are caught between criminal gangs and violent policing methods
- the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) has demonstrated positive signs of its commitment to tackle the public security crisis by starting to implement crucial reforms to the police and justice system
- the GoJ must press on with these reforms and ensure they are effectively implemented so that respect for inner-city residents' right to life and security can be greatly improved
- the international community must continue to support efforts by the GoJ to combat the public security crisis

2. CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

Goals and Objectives

Overarching goal

Police killings and levels of criminal violence in inner-city communities are reduced

Individual Objectives

- The Independent Commission for Investigations is established and its provisions begin to be effectively implemented to improve police accountability;
- The agreed recommendations from the Strategic Review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Justice Task Force Review are implemented in a timely and effective manner;
- A plan to combat the root causes of violence is adopted and implemented;
- The international donor community continue to support the Jamaican government in its efforts to improve the public security situation.

Strategy

As outlined in the report and in brief above, the Jamaican government has begun addressing deep-seated institutional weaknesses in its police and justice system which have for too long impacted negatively on the poorest sectors of Jamaican society whilst offering impunity for state actors. AI recognizes that institutional reforms require considerable time before translating into concrete changes in peoples' lives. However, the high rates of homicide and police killings recorded in 2008 and continued reports this year of high levels of criminal violence and police abuse in inner-city communities show that urgent action is required by the Jamaican government to push through reforms in key areas and to implement them effectively.

For the purposes of this action we have decided to focus our lobbying efforts on **implementation of reforms of the police and justice system** and **improving police**

accountability. Enhancing the professionalism, responsiveness and internal accountability of the police while ensuring that there is an effective independent body which can investigate and punish perpetrators of police abuse is critical to reducing the violence suffered by inner-city residents at the hands of both the police and criminal gangs. Also crucial is a better working judicial system which can provide justice for victims of these violations and break the cycle of impunity enjoyed by many state actors and criminals.

As highlighted in the previous action, the greatest lobbying impact will come from pressure on Jamaican authorities from **second governments**, particularly those which have influence in the country. The United States, Canada, United Kingdom and the European Union in particular are important players, contributing significantly to projects related to improving public security (police and justice reform, poverty alleviation), as well as being important trade partners. We are therefore requesting again that AI members especially focus on raising AI's concerns and recommendations with their own national and regional representatives.

We also believe that as well as targeting the government it is important to target the main **opposition party**, the People's National Party (PNP). Until now the PNP have cooperated with the government on the issue of improving the public security situation. With general elections due in 2012, however, the PNP may increasingly be less willing to participate in bipartisan politics. The same obviously applies to the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), whose attention will soon turn to seeking re-election.

This campaign is due to run until the end of March 2010.

3. TOOLS FOR ACTIVISM

- **Report** – Jamaica: Public security reforms and human rights in Jamaica (AI Index: AMR 38/001/2009)
- **Press release** – Jamaica: Amnesty welcomes government projects but warns of vital need for real change
- **Postcard appeal** – This September **postcards** will be made available for AI members and the general public to send to the Jamaican authorities. The appeal will focus on pushing through police reforms and establishing the Independent Commission of Investigations. The target of the appeal will be Prime Minister Golding. The postcard will be A6 shape and will have two detachable parts – one to send to the authorities and the other (containing information on AI's concerns) to keep. 02 October (see below) offers opportunities for campaigning around the postcard on this issue. We will be in contact via email about this soon.
- **DVD:** Many of will already have received a copy of this short video, which contains extracts from interviews with members of inner-city communities from October 2007. It is very colourful and features a reggae soundtrack and we hope it will be a useful tool for raising interest in this campaign. Please ask the Caribbean team for a copy. The video is also available on the amnesty.org website here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/video-and-audio/gangs-and-police-criddle-jamaicas-inner-cities-20080401>. You can also find an extended version of the interview with reggae icon Bunny Wailer, an original member of The Wailers along with Bob Marley, which has been posted on youtube by AIUSA:

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12p5Rrshe_w&feature=channel
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfOWgcpilRO&feature=related>
- **Action Circular** (AMR 38/002/2009, internal)
- **Photos** from the report and country briefing are available on AI's ADAM audio-visual intranet database (please contact your section for access details).

4. TIMING

This action will run until the **end of March 2010**. You might consider special **key dates** related to human rights issues in Jamaica, your own country and internationally as useful opportunities for undertaking selected actions on this issue, for instance:

- **11 September 2009** 2nd anniversary of government's election
- **02 October 2009** International Day of Non-Violence
- **17 October 2009** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- **10 December 2009** International Human Rights Day

International Day of Non-Violence – 02 October

In honour of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, in 2007 the United Nations declared 2 October to be International Day of Non-Violence. The resolution passed by the UN General Assembly asked all members states to commemorate the day in "an appropriate manner and disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness."

This date offers a great opportunity to hold a public event to highlight AI's report and its concerns in order to raise awareness of the public security problem in Jamaica. At any events you organize you could distribute the **postcard appeal** to the general public. You could ask people to sign the postcards and collect the part destined for the Jamaican authorities in order to send them all together to ensure greater impact.

You might like to show the short DVD in order to create interest in this issue. The DVD features reggae legend Bunny Wailer, from the original Bob Marley and the Wailers, and reggae music soundtracks the footage, so it may be an opportunity to raise awareness of this issue among reggae fans who may not know about the human rights situation in Jamaica.

Another idea is "toy gun swap" – an idea pioneered by AI Paraguay: children bring toy guns and swap them for non-violent toys; which can be used to help publicize the report and its concerns.

5. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

LOBBYING OF JAMAICAN AUTHORITIES

Letter-writing

An important component of this campaign is lobbying the Jamaican authorities via letter-writing. Please write courteously worded letters to the authorities listed in section 9 below. Do not feel that you have to include all the issues in one letter - you could focus on one set of recommendations or a selection of concerns in each letter, and write more than once over the time of the action. Try to pace your letter writing so that it is periodic and consistent throughout the period of action. In your letters:

- state that you are writing because of the issues raised in AI's report, "Jamaica: Public security reforms and human rights in Jamaica" (AMR 38/001/2009), which they will have received;
- acknowledge that after many years of inertia, Jamaica is finally beginning to address the deep-seated institutional weaknesses in its police and justice system. Welcome the following initiatives that have been undertaken:
 - a bill to establish an Independent Commission of Investigations is being discussed in Parliament;
 - the majority of recommendations from the Strategic Review of the JCF have been accepted and have begun to be implemented;
 - moves to reduce the backlog of criminal cases including increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, as well as the number of prosecutors and staff in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Go on to mention the following concerns:

- **police killings and excessive use of force:** state that while there was a 20% decline in police killings in 2008, the final total of 224 remains an unacceptably high number, and 2009 has seen no improvement with 84 people killed by police in the first five months of the year, an increase of 58% over the same period in 2008. These statistics, together with eyewitness testimonies, indicate that many of the killings involved excessive use of force by the police and in some cases may amount to extrajudicial executions;
- **the State's failure to protect its citizens:** 1,611 people were murdered in 2008, a 2.3% increase on 2007. Although figures for the first five months of 2009 show a fall of 8.7% over the same period in 2008, the number of killings remained high with 628 murders reported between January and May 2009. The majority of these victims are residents of inner-city communities who have been abandoned by the State and find themselves at the mercy of criminal gangs;
- **failure to ensure police accountability:** there is a failure to ensure effective, independent and timely investigations into allegations of unlawful killings by police. Despite the significant number of killings attributed to police officers, prosecutions of officers are extremely rare. There has been a reluctance in the past by the State to prosecute officers and many investigations of fatal shootings remain stalled for months. Official figures show that only 4.5% of officers under investigation for involvement in fatal shootings between 2006 and 2008 were charged and as of 15 May 2009, 1,040 investigations into complaints against police officers from previous years remained incomplete.

Continue by calling on the authorities to address the following issues related to policing and administration of justice:

implement reforms to the police and justice system

- implement the recommendations from the Strategic Review of the JCF and the Justice System Task Force and ensure co-ordination between the two processes,
- set up mechanisms to address possible resistance to change within the JCF, including by prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations relating to the improvement of internal communication and participation of rank-and-file officers in the reform process;

- adopt a rigorous results-based approach based on precise quantitative and qualitative indicators;
- show a clear political will to treat reform of the police and the justice system as projects essential to the realization of human rights and keep them free of political partisanship;
- ensure effective and meaningful participation in the process by all members of society and in particular by people living in inner-city communities.

improve police accountability

- ensure legislation to establish an Independent Commission for Investigations is enacted and its provisions are effectively implemented, allocating adequate resources, including for the training of independent investigators and for access to competent and independent ballistics and forensic expertise;
- ensure that indicators based on the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers are included in the JCF performance appraisal system and in the vetting exercise for all staff;
- take all possible measures to ensure efficient and expeditious practices in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for the prosecution of police officers responsible for human rights violations;
- establish a special coroner for police abuses;
- establish a special prosecutor for corruption.

adopt and implement a plan to combat the root causes of violence

- sustain efforts to enhance co-ordination of social interventions so that people living in inner-city communities are able to effectively exercise their human rights and in particular key economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living –including housing – to work, to health, and to education;
- finalize the community safety and security policy and allocate adequate resources to ensure its implementation.

Go on to state that AI recognizes that institutional reforms require considerable time before translating into concrete changes in peoples' lives. Also say that you realize that it is the duty of the wider international community to support Jamaica in its fight to improve public security for its people, and that you will also be writing to your government and representative in Jamaica [if applicable] requesting that they offer Jamaica their full cooperation in this important task.

In letters to the following authorities:

➤ **Prime Minister**

Refer to this quote from the Prime Minister:

*"We do have a significant problem of violent crime. We do have several instances of police homicides and we also are faced with the problem of corruption within the police force. There is no doubt there has to be serious reform of the police system"*¹

Refer to this quote from the his inaugural address, which was addressed to the Leader of the Opposition: *"Let's talk about the dream that I believe we share for a Jamaica whose people are at peace with each other, where equality and justice reign supreme"*

¹ Miami Herald, 02/04/08, "Rights group: Jamaica must crush its crime"

➤ **Minister of National Security**

As Minister responsible for the security forces, these are the recommendations to highlight:

- implement the recommendations from the Strategic Review of the JCF and ensure co-ordination with the justice sector reform;
- set up mechanisms to address possible resistance to change within the JCF, including by prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations relating to the improvement of internal communication and participation of rank-and-file officers in the reform process;
- adopt a rigorous results-based approach based on precise quantitative and qualitative indicators;
- ensure that indicators based on the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers are included in the JCF performance appraisal system and in the vetting exercise for all staff.

➤ **Attorney General and Minister of Justice** (both posts held by same person)

Welcome the fact that between January 2008 and March 2009 at least six cases of police shootings were dealt by the Bureau of Special Investigations and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in a timely manner and resulted in police officers facing murder charges. Go on to highlight these recommendations:

- implement the recommendations from the Justice System Task Force and ensure co-ordination with the reform of the JCF,
- take all possible measures to ensure efficient and expeditious practices in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for the prosecution of police officers responsible for human rights violations;
- ensure legislation to establish an Independent Commission for Investigations is enacted and its provisions are effectively implemented, allocating adequate resources, including for the training of independent investigators and for access to competent and independent ballistics and forensic expertise;
- ensure legislation to establish a special coroner for police abuses is enacted and its provisions are effectively implemented;
- ensure legislation to establish a special prosecutor for corruption is enacted and its provisions are effectively implemented.

➤ **Commissioner of Police**

Please begin your appeals by stating that you recognize that policing in Jamaica's inner-cities is a difficult and often highly dangerous profession. Go on to call for:

- implement the recommendations from the Strategic Review of the JCF in a timely and effective manner and ensure co-ordination with the justice sector reform;
- set up mechanisms to address possible resistance to change within the JCF, including by prioritizing the implementation of those recommendations relating to the improvement of internal communication and participation of rank-and-file officers in the reform process;
- ensure that indicators based on the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers are included in the JCF performance appraisal system and in the vetting exercise for all staff.

Writing to the Leader of the Opposition (Portia Simpson-Miller, leader of the PNP)

Please also write to the leader of the Opposition mentioning these points:

- Express your hope that the PNP will continue its bipartisan approach to addressing the public security situation in Jamaica;
- State your hope that the PNP will be supportive with regard to the expeditious passage of important legislation relating to improving public security, notably the Independent Commission of Investigations;
- Say you have also written to government calling on it to do the same.

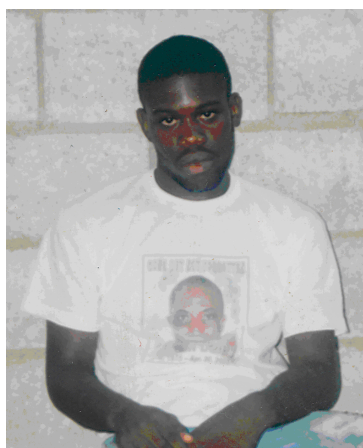
APPEAL CASES

The report features two cases from 2008 of two victims of alleged police killings, **Randall Richards** and **Anthony Nelson**.

22 year-old **Anthony Nelson** was killed by police on 7 January 2009 while he was working at a construction site in Central Village, St. Catherine. He and his colleague Ricardo Suckoo were having lunch when three policemen approached and asked what they were doing there. They replied that they were working on the site, whereupon the police officers began shooting at them. Anthony was killed on the spot and Richard was seriously injured. Investigations by the Bureau of Special Investigations and by the Police Public Complaints Authority are still ongoing and forensic reports had yet to be completed.

18 year-old **Randall Richards** was shot dead in front of his parents by police officers on 24 June 2008, at their home in the area of Waltham Park Road in Kingston. According to press reports, the police were carrying out an operation to arrest a man wanted for murder. An investigation into his killing was opened by the Bureau of Special Investigations. More than a year after his death, police statements have yet to be taken and forensic reports have not been completed.

Both of these cases illustrate how some members of the JCF flagrantly abuse their powers and how slow the Jamaican justice system is to investigate even the most serious of abuses by the security forces. Please see the report for further information on the circumstances surrounding their killings.



Richard Randall (© Private)



Anthony Nelson (© Private)

These photos are available from ADAM (please see Tools for Activism above).

In your letters to the Jamaican authorities please make mention of these cases:

- call for the deaths of Randall Richards and Anthony Nelson to be fully and impartially investigated and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- state that investigations into allegations of unlawful killings should follow United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions;
- ensure that any witnesses are protected from violence, threats of violence or any other form of intimidation;
- ask for fair and adequate reparations for the families of the victims should agents of the state be found to be implicated in the deaths, in accordance with the state's responsibilities under international human rights standards on reparations to victims and their families.

Update on cases from previous action

AI's 2008 report featured the cases of Ravin Thompson and André Thomas who were allegedly killed by police in separate incidents in 2007. In December 2007 four policemen were charged with murder and attempting to pervert the course of justice in relation to the killing of Andre Thomas and judicial proceedings are ongoing. With regard to the Ravin Thompson case, the police officers allegedly involved in his murder have fled the country and as such his case unfortunately remains in impunity.

Visits to Embassy of Jamaica in your country

In consultation with your Section, organize a meeting with the Jamaican embassy/consulate in your country to present AI's report. (If this is not possible, please send it to the embassy with a covering letter. Again, try to organize a meeting for a later date.) In your meetings you should:

- explain AI's work in general;
- emphasize the concerns presented in AI's report;
- request that they communicate AI's concerns to the Jamaican authorities.

HOME GOVERNMENT LOBBYING

Lobbying your own governments and blocs such as the European Union is a very important part of this action. The United States, Canada, United Kingdom and the European Union in particular have been involved in funding reforms to the police and justice system and also poverty alleviation in Jamaica. It is especially important to ask these governments to put pressure on the Jamaican government to implement AI's recommendations.

AI is calling on other governments to:

- support the Jamaican government in its efforts to improve the public security situation;
- ensure reform of the JCF and the Justice system are prioritised in agreements and diplomatic relations;
- ensure that budget support for police and justice reforms is maintained in the face of global economic crisis
- support the Independent Commission of Investigation, once it will be established, especially by co-operating in the capacity building of the investigators and by facilitating the transfer of expertise from countries which have already established

such an institution

- Continue to enhance co-ordination of social and security programmes and support the finalization and implementation of the community safety and security policy with a view to ensuring full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for everyone and in particular those living in inner-city communities.

Foreign Ministries

- In consultation with your Section, write a letter to your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and attach a copy of AI's report, requesting a meeting to discuss the issues it raises;
- inform your Ministry of Foreign Affairs of AI's concerns and ask them to raise these issues in contacts with Jamaican authorities;
- make reference to AI's recommendations for other governments mentioned above;
- emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people;
- if a meeting cannot be organised immediately, please send the document to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a covering letter urging them to raise the issues in the document in all their communications with Jamaican authorities. Also try to arrange a meeting for a later date;
- if officials from your Ministry of Foreign Affairs are visiting Jamaica during the period of this action, try to arrange a meeting in order to brief them on the concerns raised in the report.

The objective of these visits is to request Ministers to raise with the Jamaican authorities AI's concerns on this issue as mentioned in the report.

Ambassador of your country in Jamaica

It would be useful to inform the representatives of your country in Jamaica about AI's concerns regarding public security in Jamaica. Write to your ambassador/consul with details of AI's concerns:

- stress AI's concerns regarding this issue;
- ask the Ambassador to raise this issue with the relevant Jamaican authorities;
- make reference to AI's recommendations for other countries mentioned above.
- make reference to AI's recommendations for other countries mentioned above.

. LOBBYING THE EUROPEAN UNION (for Coordinators/members in the European Union)

After the USA, Canada and UK, the EU is the biggest provider of funding to Jamaica. The "main thrust" of the EU Country Strategy for Jamaica is "to address the two major challenges facing the country [...] the high level of public debt and crime." 30% of EU funding earmarked for the period 2008-2013 will be helped to support governance and the combat against crime. As stated in the Country Strategy Paper: "the EU, as the largest grant donor to Jamaica with important comparative advantages, has an unparalleled potential to assist GOJ's development efforts."² The EU has committed to assist Jamaica with 33.million Euros in the framework of a budget support programme. The total amount will be released in four tranches. The release of each tranche is subject to the fulfilment of a

² Jamaica-European Community Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme 2008-2013

number of pre-determined criteria. Most of the criteria are based on the implementation of the reform of the police and of the justice system.

Lobbying the Delegation of the European Commission in Jamaica

The European Commission's Delegation to Jamaica, Belize, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands is based in Kingston. The Delegation "represents the European Commission in all matters, informing on all activities of the Commission and keeping its headquarters in Brussels abreast of significant local developments. It works closely with the EU Member States in the host countries, and in particular, the Member State representing the EU Presidency. It also co-operates and co-ordinates activities with representatives of non-EU Member States and multilateral organisations". The IS will be sending a copies of the report to the Delegation. Please write to the Head of the Delegation making reference to AI's recommendations, particularly those for other governments. Emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people.

Lobbying of the European Council (in coordination with your Section)

Send a copy of the report to representatives of your Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM – usually the head of the human rights departments). Write a covering letter asking them to ensure that the EU raises the issues outlined in the report and in this action circular in all their communications with Jamaican authorities. Please draw their attention to the recommendations for second governments. Emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people.

Lobbying of the European Parliament

Please write to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from your country and raise the issues presented in the report and in this action circular. However, please consult with the EU Contact person in your section beforehand so that approaches may be coordinated. In particular, we advise you to contact:

- Members to the EP Delegation to the African-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Joint Assembly (please see below). For a list of members, dates and agendas of forthcoming meeting, please see the website

http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/90_01/default_en.htm

- Members of the EP Committee on Development and Cooperation. For a list of members, forthcoming meetings etc. see:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/deve_home_en.htm

In your letters you should:

- State AI's concerns and recommendations on this issue as outlined in AI's report; please draw their attention to the recommendations for second governments. Emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people.
- Ask your MEP to take any measures in their power which might influence the Jamaican government in line with AI's recommendations, for example raising human

rights issues with their Jamaican counterparts during the next meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly; writing a letter to the authorities concerned, or raising the issues in questions to the Council and the European Commission in order to establish what action the EU is taking to address these concerns.

African-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Joint Assembly

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly links the European Union to 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, including Jamaica. It was set up to improve standards of living and economic development in the ACP countries and to establish close cooperation between these countries and the European Union. The representatives of the 77 ACP countries meet their 77 counterparts among the MEPs in a week-long plenary session twice a year. Please find members of the Assembly here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/expert/otherBodies/search.do?language=EN&body=1558>.

AI Members in EU Member States are encouraged to contact Members of the European Parliament of their country who are representing the EP in the Joint Assembly for pre-briefings on AI's concerns regarding the issue of public security in Jamaica.

- Please send a copy of AI's report to the MEPs of your country who are representing the EP at the Joint Assembly and ask for a meeting; emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support of the and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people;
- In a cover letter ask them to address the issue of public security and human rights in Jamaica in the forthcoming Joint Assembly, i.e. by initiating a resolution. Please draw their attention to the recommendations for second governments.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

- Please write to CARICOM making reference to AI's recommendations, particularly those for other governments. Emphasize that Jamaica urgently requires the full support and cooperation of the international community in order to improve public security and therefore protect the human rights of its people.
- State that Caribbean countries need to effectively address the public security crisis in Jamaica as a region and to cooperate in effectively sharing expertise and resources (e.g. witness protection mechanisms and forensic expertise) regionally.
- Say that you will also calling on your government (and the EU if applicable) to assist the Caribbean region to realize this.

6. OUTREACH

Events

Please use these opportunities to engage with organizers and those involved in such events to disseminate AI materials on Jamaica. Outreach can be used to support your direct lobbying of authorities at home and in Jamaica, as well as generally raising awareness of our concerns and recruiting the support of others for our action. It may be possible to liaise with other groups and organizations in your country with an interest in Jamaica, the Caribbean and/or human rights. For example:

- human rights organizations
- development organizations
- solidarity groups
- trade unions

- academic institutes, writers and poets
- legal and medical professionals
- music radio stations; reggae fans
- “toy gun swap” – an idea pioneered by AI Paraguay: children bring toy guns and swap them for non-violent toys; could be used alongside other actions such as information stalls, concerts, street theatre etc. to publicize the report and its concerns.

The Jamaican Diaspora

The Jamaican Diaspora consists of around 2.6 million Jamaicans, which is roughly equal to the population of Jamaica. The majority of the diaspora lives in the UK, USA and Canada and maintains strong links with Jamaica. Many Jamaicans eventually return to the country and others remain in close contact with their communities there. Remittances from expatriate communities in the USA, UK and Canada have been estimated at up to \$1.6 billion per year, and make significant contributions to Jamaica's economy. The impact of campaigning within and by these communities will therefore have an inevitable impact on Jamaican society itself.

7. MEDIA

Please send the press release to your national and local media (this includes radio, magazines, newspapers, alternative media and web sites, particularly those that cover human rights and/or Jamaica/the Caribbean). It would be good if you could also send the report and country briefing. We ask that every effort be made to give AI's report and recommendations as much publicity as possible during the course of this action. The key dates mentioned above offer future opportunities for getting AI's concerns on Jamaica into the media.

- encourage journalists (Jamaica/Caribbean specialists) to write articles on AI's concerns;
- the IS will be sending the press release directly to the Jamaican media. We are asking, however, that you send any articles published in your own country to two press addresses in Jamaica (see Appendix for Jamaican press addresses and please send copies to the Caribbean Team at the IS);
- Sections could publish articles and actions in their newsletter and/or on their web-site.

8. FEEDBACK

As always, we are pleased to answer any queries, and to hear how your activities go. Please contact us at caribbean@amnesty.org.

9. ADDRESSES

JAMAICAN AUTHORITIES

Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Bruce Golding
 Office of the Prime Minister
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