

CONTRIBUTION TO DEBATE ON EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

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May 1, 2018

1. It is important to recognize the impact the State of Emergency in St. James has had on diluting the effect of the security forces in other areas of the country. Based on statistics from the JCF Statistics and Information Management Unit, for the period January 1, 2018 to April 28, 2018 in comparison to the same period for 2017, **12/19 police divisions have experienced an increase in murders and 12/19 divisions have experienced an increase in shooting.**

The table below highlights **8 police divisions that have had an increase of over 40% in the number of murders and 5 police divisions that have had an increase of over 50% in the number of shootings since the beginning of the year when compared to the same period for 2017.**

**Divisional Breakdown of Serious and Violent Crimes
January 1, 2018 - April 28, 2018 and Comparison for 2017
Source: JCF Statistics and Information Management Unit**

Police Divisions	Murder		
	2018	2017	% increase
St. Andrew South	68	22	209.1%
Portland	5	2	150%
St. Mary	16	8	100%
St. Thomas	13	7	85.7%
Kingston Eastern	20	11	81.8%
Trelawny	7	4	75%
St. Andrew Central	32	22	45.5%
St. Elizabeth	7	5	40%

Police Divisions	Shooting		
	2018	2017	% increase
Manchester	17	6	183.3%
St. Elizabeth	10	4	150%
St. Andrew Central	35	16	118.8%
St. Andrew North	13	7	85.7%
Westmoreland	62	40	55%

2. The suppression of criminal activity alone will not work. The ZOSO in Denham Town is a great example of this. While the presence of the security forces has brought some stability to the community, once the security presence was scaled down, 6 persons were killed. It is therefore important to have a clear community transformation plan that involves social intervention organizations like the Peace Management Initiative (PMI).

3. These organizations can play important roles in transitioning high risk youth not wanted by the police into second chance opportunities. This can be an important complement to the spear fishing approach which is so desperately needed now. The parish of St. James cannot remain in an indefinite State of Emergency while we strip young men of their human rights.

1,724 persons have been processed since the start of the SOE in St. James. Of that number, 133 have been charged with major crimes including 22 for murder, 19 for shooting, 12 for robbery and 6 for rape. – Source: Police High Command April 18, 2018. Only 7.7% of those processed have been charged with any offence.

4. The Government must also be warned that creating encampments with men from all around, may expose borderline criminals to hardened criminals. It may also lead to the creation of new criminal linkages and networks while these men are detained together.

5. What is required now is a security plan which transitions into more intelligence led operations targeting gangs that have been disrupted by the SOE.

6. We must also examine each priority community and analyze what is required to transform them. The relevant social organizations coordinated by an entity like the Community Renewal Program at PIOJ should be given the resources to lead this charge.

7. An entity like the PMI equipped with the necessary violence Interrupters and social workers to help the healing and restoration of these communities is absolutely necessary.

The PMI's Violence Interruption Programme is made up of three components:

1. Detecting & Interrupting Violence
2. Mainstreaming High Risk Youth
3. Engaging the community around changing negative norms and values.

Currently the PMI receives \$57M annually to run programs in Kingston, St. Catherine North and Clarendon.

Ideally each parish including St. James, Westmoreland and Hanover needs \$50M to effectively engage the community safety challenges that exists in these volatile areas. This would allow the PMI to swamp each priority parish with at least 50 violence interrupters.

8. The Government should consider breaking up the St. James Police Division into multiple Divisions to effectively provide security treatment and coverage for the parish. The current structure is out dated and even with police stations dotted across the parish, it requires senior police officers treating with specific sections of the parish. That is the case with Kingston which has multiple police divisions.