

UA 113/2002

Fear for

JAMAICAKaydeen Brown (f), aged 19
Ian Mundel (m)
Jermaine Wilson (m)
"Copper" (m)

Other residents of Duhaney Park, Kingston

Killed: Michael Scarlett (m)

Police and soldiers cordoned off the Duhaney Park district of the capital, Kingston, on 9 April, and raided a number of homes, killing one man in an apparent extrajudicial execution. They beat and arrested his pregnant girlfriend, Kaydeen Brown, and charged her with possession of firearms, in an apparent attempt to intimidate her so that she does not testify about the killing. She is at grave risk of beatings and other ill-treatment in custody, as are the three men named above, who were arrested the same day.

The arrests are apparently in retaliation for the killing of 24-year-old police officer Basil Black, who was shot in the head when he responded to an emergency call in Duhaney Park on 6 April. His colleague PC Kevon Chambers was wounded.

Officers from Hunts Bay police station reportedly entered Michael Scarlett's house in the early hours of 9 April, told him to put his clothes on and ordered his 19-year-old girlfriend, Kaydeen Brown, out into the street half-dressed. Several shots were heard, and the police were seen removing Michael Scarlett's body and bedclothes from the house. Local NGOs have reported finding bullet holes in and around his bloodstained mattress, and evidence that the police had attempted to clean up bloodstains in the room. It appears that Scarlett was forced onto his bed and shot, but the police have claimed that they shot him after he opened fire on them.

Kaydeen Brown is pregnant, and was first held in a severely overcrowded and unhygienic cell in Hunts Bay police station with no access to medical attention. She is now held at Metcalf Remand Centre, in Kingston, where she is not known to have been allowed any medical attention, or access to legal assistance or her family.

The police have destroyed at least four homes in Duhaney Park, smashing personal property inside the houses and burning one house to the ground. They have allegedly threatened to destroy more homes unless someone tells them who killed PC Black. They have also allegedly threatened to kill more people from the area.

Many local people have been badly beaten by police, including the owners of the house that was burned down. Police officers ordered one young man to run through a storm drain carrying a gun, and beat and kicked him when he refused. Two other men had their clothes taken from their house and burnt in the street.

The head of the Crime Management Unit (which was set up to deal with serious crimes, and whose officers have been implicated in extrajudicial executions and torture) said he had not been to the area and therefore had not seen any damaged homes. A TV reporter confronted him with footage of him in the area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has long-running concerns about human rights violations by Jamaican police, including use of excessive force, extrajudicial executions and the ill-treatment or torture of criminal suspects and their relatives. For more information please see *Killings and violence by police: How many more victims?* (AMR 38/003/01, April 2001).

The Jamaican authorities have acknowledged the problem of police brutality. On 31 May 2001, the Commissioner of Police stated publicly: "Far too many policemen are getting involved in situations which clearly display an excessive use of force. Again I say to you, notwithstanding the attitude of some Jamaicans you face daily, you can't beat up citizens and then expect their full cooperation".

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that despite such public expressions of concern, it is extremely rare for police officers to be tried for human rights abuses.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that Kaydeen Brown is properly treated in custody, and that she has access to legal representation, her family and medical attention;
- expressing grave concern at reports that police extrajudicially executed Michael Scarlett in retaliation for the killing of PC Basil Black, and that police have beaten other residents of Duhaney Park;
- expressing grave concern at reports that police have threatened to kill other residents of Duhaney Park and destroy homes;
- expressing sympathy for the family and colleagues of PC Black and recognising that the authorities have a duty to bring his killers to justice, but stating that this must be done within the confines of national and international law, particularly those provisions which govern the use of force by police, the detention of suspects and the protection of property;
- expressing concern at the general level of police brutality in Jamaica, and urging the authorities to ensure that there is no further police brutality in Duhaney Park;
- urging the authorities to order a thorough investigation into the allegations of extrajudicial killing, police brutality and destruction of homes in the Duhaney Park area, and asking to be kept informed of the outcome.

APPEALS TO:

The Rt Hon P. J. Patterson, PC, QC, MP,
 Prime Minister
 Office of the Prime Minister
 Jamaica House
 1 Devon Road
 Kingston 6

Fax: + 1 876 929 0005

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

The Honourable (Dr) Peter Philipps
 Minister of National Security
 Ministry of National Security
 Mutual Life Building
 North Tower
 2 Oxford Road

Kingston 5
Jamaica
Fax: + 1 876 906 1713
Salutation:Dear Minister

Francis A. Forbes, CD, LL.B.
Commissioner of Police
Office of the Commissioner
101-105 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6
JAMAICA
Fax:+ 1 876 927 7516
Salutation:Dear Commissioner

MP for Duhaney Park
OT Williams MP
Houses of Parliament
81 Duke Street
Kingston
Jamaica

COPIES TO:

Hunts Bay Police Station
Constabulary Communications
3 Mile Road
Kingston 11
Jamaica
Fax: + 1 876 923 8908

and to diplomatic representatives of Jamaica accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 May 2002.