



STOP THE KILLINGS

PUBLIC SECURITY REFORMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN JAMAICA

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



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Thousands of people in Jamaica's inner cities live in constant fear of violence. In 2008, 1,835 people were fatally shot, 224 of them by police. Caught between criminal gangs and violent policing methods, they are denied effective state protection and are condemned to lives of poverty and exclusion.

To reduce this violence, Jamaica urgently needs a police force which is professional, responsive and accountable. Major reforms of the Jamaica Constabulary Force are needed, as is the establishment of an Independent Commission of Investigations to investigate allegations of police killings and put an end to the almost total impunity enjoyed by officers who commit human rights violations.

After many years of inertia, the Jamaican authorities are finally starting to introduce these much needed reforms. These have now reached a critical stage. Political will and commitment are needed to ensure that the reforms are implemented without delay in order to make a real difference to the lives of people in inner-city communities.

For further information please see *Public security reforms and human rights in Jamaica* (Index: 38/001/2009) available at www.amnesty.org

TAKE ACTION NOW

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THIS POSTCARD TO THE JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER, BRUCE GOLDING

Image: Peace march in Kingston, Jamaica, 7 March 2006.

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Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern at the levels of violence in Jamaica's inner cities. Caught between criminal gangs and violent policing, too many people are living with the constant and very real fear that they or their loved ones will be killed or injured in the continuing violence.

You yourself have stated that "there is no doubt there has to be serious reform of the police system". The crucial process of reform on which your government has embarked provides a golden opportunity to bring about much needed change.

I therefore respectfully urge you and your government to ensure the swift and full implementation of reforms to the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the establishment of an Independent Commission of Investigations in order to ensure that Jamaicans have the professional, responsive and accountable police force they deserve and are able to realize their human right to live in security and dignity.

Yours respectfully,

Name: _____

Country: _____

Attach post
stamp

**Prime Minister
The Rt Hon Bruce Golding
Office of the Prime Minister
Jamaica House
1 Devon Road
Kingston 6
Jamaica**

Index: AMR 38/003/2009

Image: Spanish Town, Jamaica, May 2009.
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