

PUBLIC

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Police death threats and brutality/incommunicado detention

17 May

JAMAICA

**Inhabitants of Morgan's Lane, Spanish Town
Curtis Greenwood (m)
Jeffrey James (m)**

The two men named above are detained without charge, incommunicado, in Spanish Town Police Station and are at risk of ill-treatment and torture. Amnesty International is extremely concerned for their safety. Police detained them after killing another resident of the Morgan's Lane district in an alleged extrajudicial execution, and have threatened to kill people living in Morgan's Lane.

Curtis Greenwood has reportedly been severely beaten in police custody. He was charged and appeared in court on May 11, and was granted bail of \$30 000 (approx US\$500). Police then detained him for questioning on another matter, which had not been mentioned while he was in custody. Police have refused to allow either man to see a doctor.

Police shot Robin 'Country' Anderson dead on 5 May. In an apparent attempt to intimidate the community after the shooting, the police then rounded up 20 young men from nearby houses, including Curtis Greenwood and Jeffrey James. The others were released in the following two days. Independent medical reports have reportedly confirmed that several of them had been badly beaten, including Rowan Anderson, Christopher James and an eyewitness to the shooting.

A senior officer reportedly told a member of the community in December of last year that "If the youth wanted to live to see their children grow, they should make sure they did not go near any building sites for work." Greenwood's brother, Otis Phillips, was reportedly threatened in March 2004 by a Senior Superintendent of police from Spanish Town, who allegedly told him he was on "borrowed time".

On 9 May, members of the community were reportedly warned that they would be killed if they buried Robin Anderson. A police officer allegedly said that if the funeral took place, there would be more bodies than people to bury them. The funeral has not yet taken place.

Eyewitnesses stated that Robin Anderson was offering no resistance when he was killed, but was in bed, holding his hands in the air in a gesture of surrender; police had reportedly arrived at his home at around 6am. After the shooting, police reportedly removed evidence, washing away blood and taking away the bloody sheets in a black bag. Anderson is believed to have been killed in retaliation for throwing a stone at a police superintendent during a roadblock demonstration in the community in December 2003. He received death threats before he was killed. On April 28, police officers visited the community and said: "Tell Country he [name of police officer] deh bout and him nuh have long fi live." [Tell Country (police officer) is coming and he doesn't have long to live.] The threat was reported to the Police Public Complaints Authority.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Morgan's Lane is surrounded by 'garrison communities' (urban communities dominated by one of Jamaica's two main political parties) which are dominated by the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP, the official opposition party). It is understood to have been targeted for some time by the local One Order gang, which is affiliated to the JLP. The community has complained of threats from police for some time, and believe that police may be colluding with the gang. On April 28, police failed to respond to a request for assistance after gunmen

opened fire on Morgan's Lane. The threat was reported to the Police Public Complaints Authority but the authorities took no action.

Amnesty International has grave concerns about the numerous unlawful killings committed by the Jamaican police. It is allegedly very common for officers to threaten both witnesses to unlawful killings and people who live nearby. Amnesty International has also received many reports of people seeking justice for the killing of their relatives being threatened and harassed.

For further information on the situation in Jamaica please see *Jamaica: The killing of the Braeton Seven- A justice system on trial* (AMR 38/005/2003, March 2003) and *Jamaica: Killings and violence by police: How many more victims?* (AMR 38/003/2001, April 2001).

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

- expressing concern at the reported incommunicado detention and ill-treatment of Curtis Greenwood and Jeffrey James since the shooting of Robin 'Country' Anderson on 5 May;
- expressing concern at reports that police are threatening the lives of members of the Morgan's Lane community (give details), and expressing concern at the killing of Robin 'Country' Anderson in circumstances suggesting he was extrajudicially executed;
- urging the authorities to prevent any further ill-treatment or torture, to grant the detainees immediate access to legal assistance and any medical attention they may require, and to ensure that they are immediately charged or released;
- expressing concern that these men and the 17 detained with them on 5 May have reportedly been severely ill-treated by police, suggesting a deliberate strategy intimidating witnesses to the killing of Robin 'Country' Anderson;
- calling for an immediate impartial investigation into all of these allegations and for the results to be made public.

APPEALS TO:

Senior Superintendent Clifford Blake
Spanish Town Police Station
3 Burke Road
Spanish Town
Jamaica

Fax: + 1 876 907 3795

Salutation: Dear senior Superintendent

COPIES TO:

The Hon. Dr. Peter Philipps
Minister for National Security
Mutual Life Building
North Tower
2 Oxford Road
PO Box 472
Kingston 5, JAMAICA

Telegrams: Minister for National Security, Kingston, 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

Telegrams: **Commissioner of Police, Kingston, Jamaica**

Fax: **+ 1 876 927 7516**

Salutation: **Dear Commissioner**

Granville Gauze
Assistant Commissioner of Police
Bureau of Special Investigations
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Jamaica

Fax: **+ 1 876 924 9123**

Salutation: **Dear Assistant Commissioner**

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 28 June 2004.