



Please note change in mobile number for the Public Relations Unit in [Contact Information](#).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

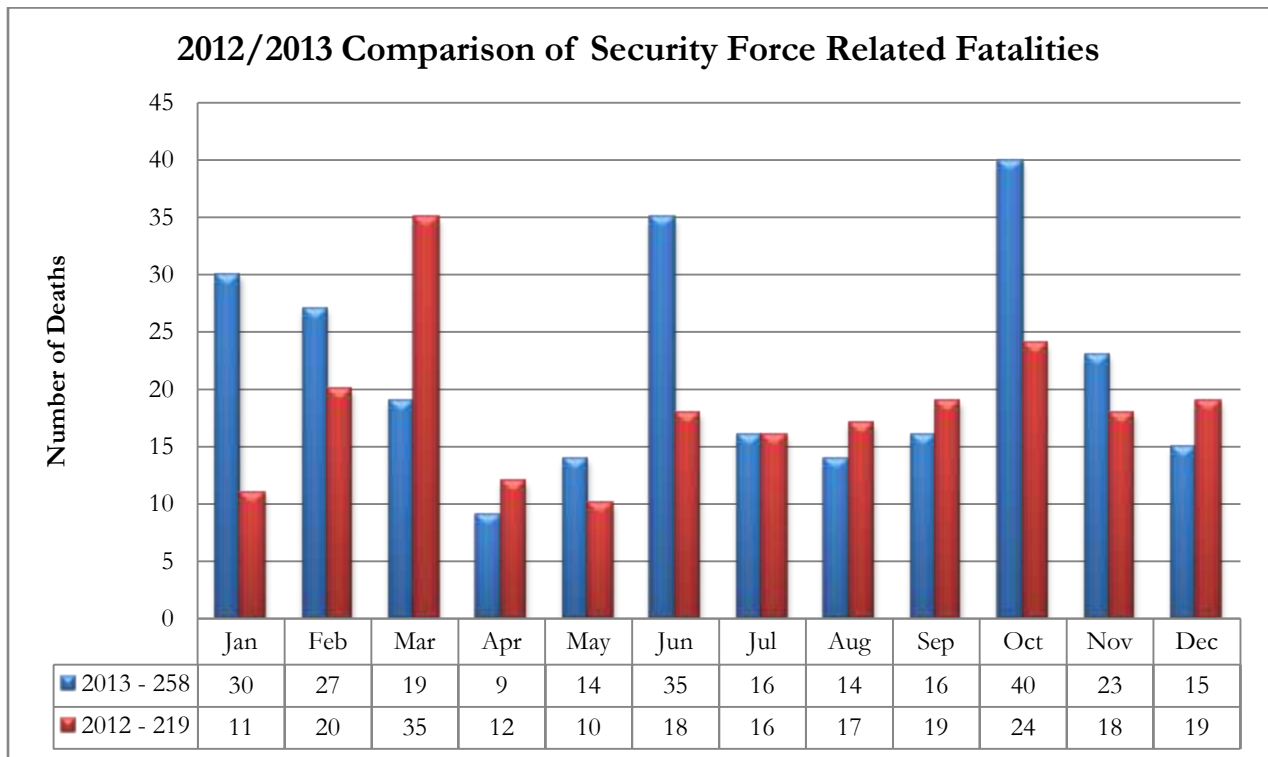
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THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATIONS

1 A Dumfries Road
Kingston 10
Jamaica

INDECOM’S STATISTICS ON SECURITY FORCE RELATED FATALITIES – 2013

January 14, 2014 – 258 civilians lost their lives in security force involve incidents in 2013. This is 39 more civilians when compared with the previous year according to end of year statistics collated by the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM). This represents a 17.8 per cent increase from the figure recorded last year which was 219.



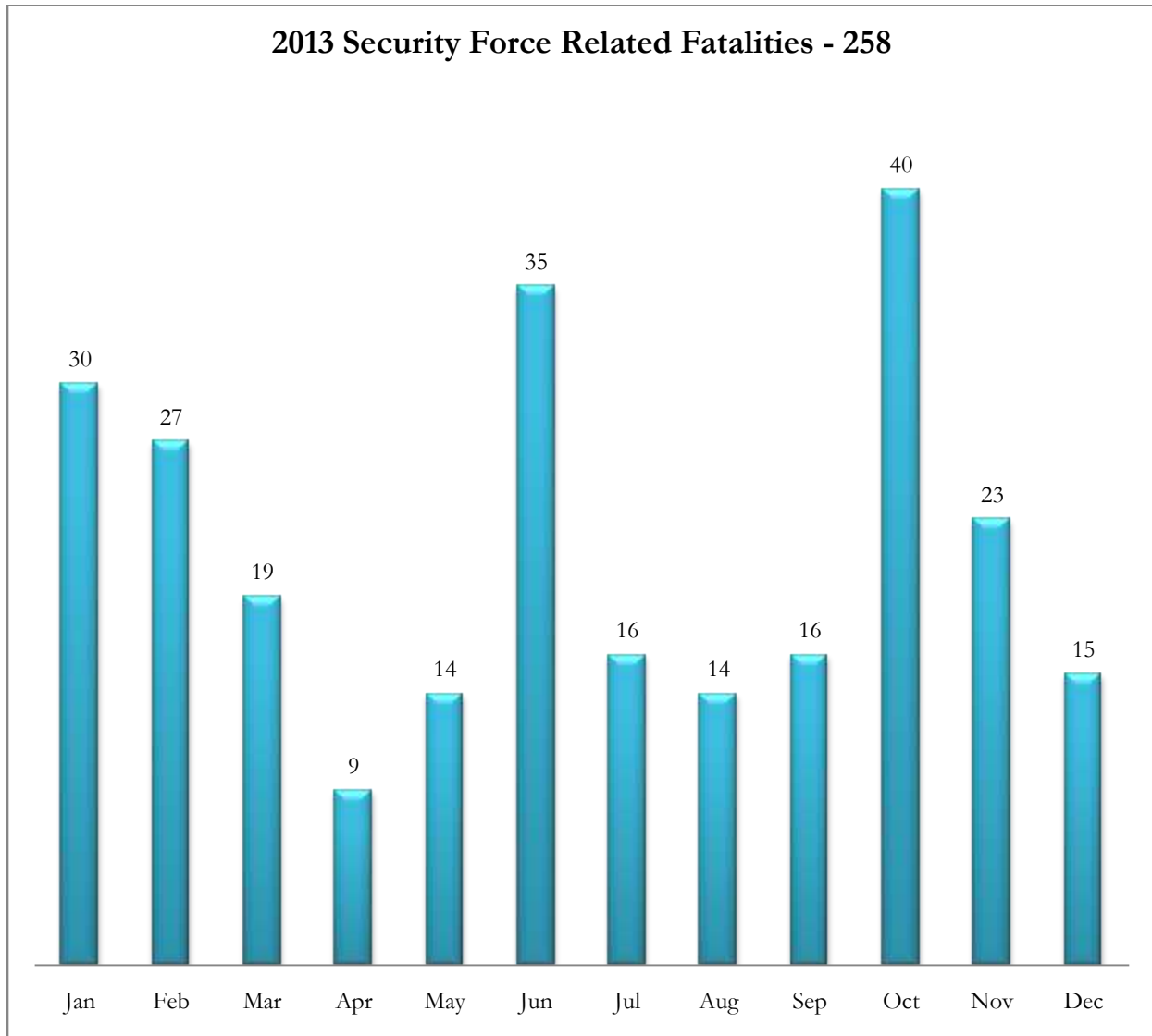
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2013 Security Force Related Fatalities - 258



It is important to note that in October the Commission recorded the highest number of fatalities in a month in its history. In that same month the highest number of deaths-in-custody in a month was also recorded. Interestingly, in the previous month – September – three deaths-in-custody were recorded, this means seven (7) of the 10 or 70 per cent of the deaths-in-custody for the entire year occurred in these two months.

Additionally, in June, 35 civilians lost their lives in security force involved incidents representing a 94 per cent increase from the previous year which recorded 18. The third and fourth highest number of fatalities was recorded in January and February of last year with 30 and 27; for the same period in the previous year (2012), these 2 months recorded 11 and 20 respectively.

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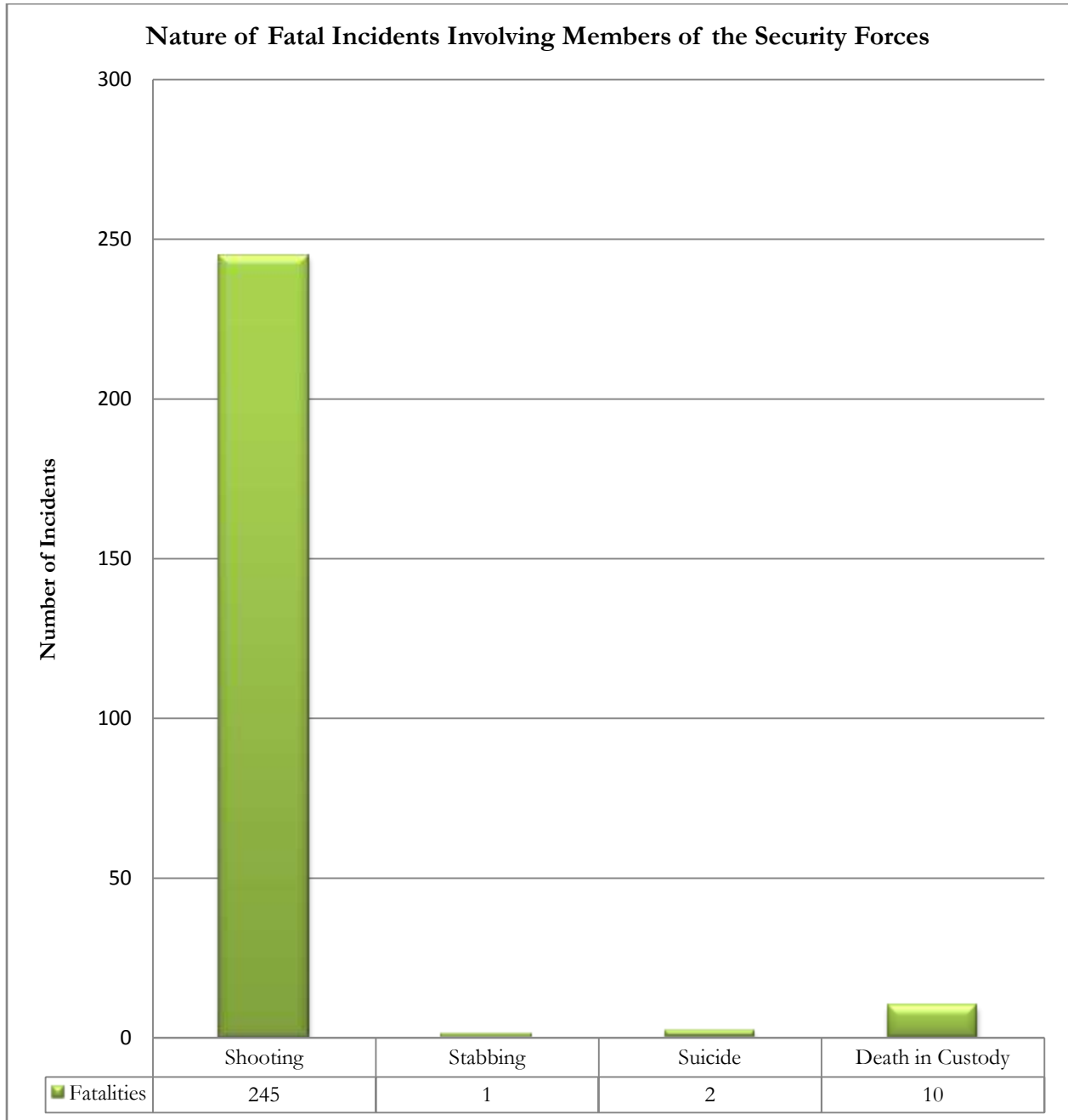
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Generally, the nature of the fatal incidents involving members of the security forces range from shootings, stabbings, suicides and deaths in custody. Last year 95 per cent of the fatal incidents were shootings while four (4) per cent were deaths-in-custody. Stabbings and suicides accounted for one per cent of the fatalities.



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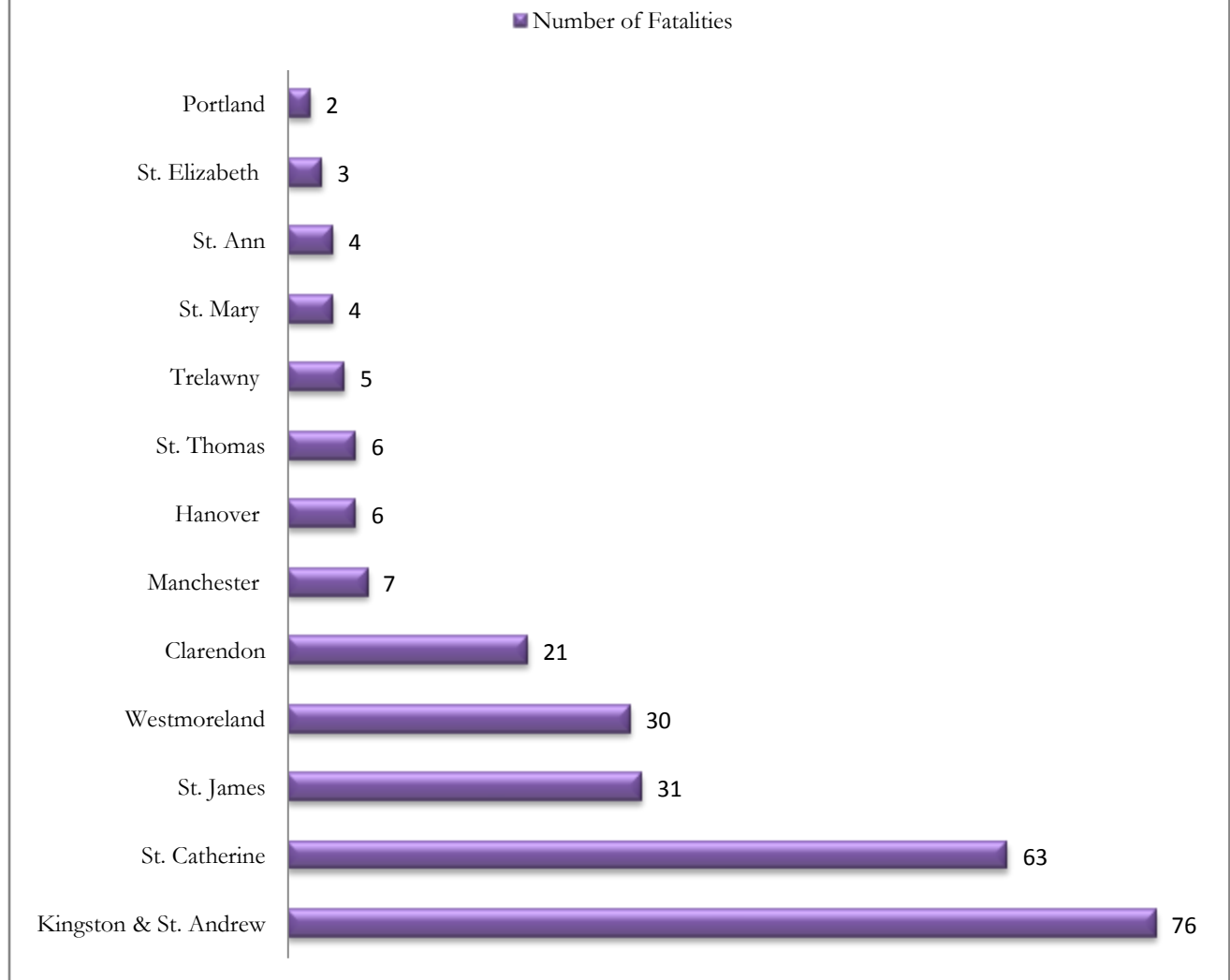
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Security Force Related Fatalities by Parish



As it relates to the parishes, Kingston and St. Andrew recorded the highest number of fatalities with 76 which represents 29 per cent of the total number of fatalities. This followed by St. Catherine which recorded 63 fatalities some 24 percent of the total number. The third highest is St. James with 31 fatalities, 12 per cent of the total deaths followed by Westmoreland which recorded 30, which represents 11.6 per cent.

The parish with the lowest number of fatalities was Portland which recorded two (2) deaths involving the members of the security forces, followed by St. Elizabeth which recorded three (3). St Ann and St. Mary are tied for third lowest as they recorded four (4) fatalities each for 2013.

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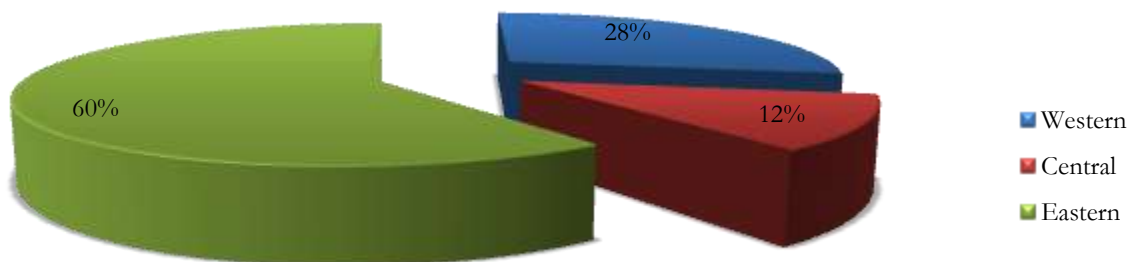
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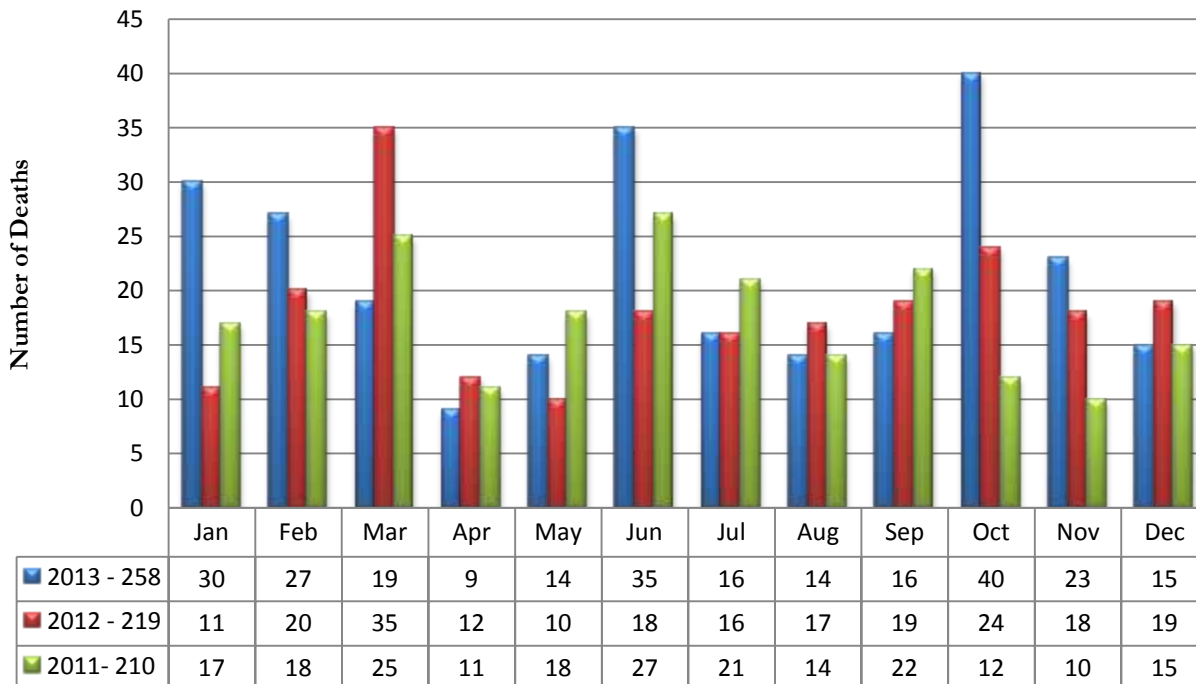
The Eastern region remains the area with the highest number of fatalities accounting for 60 per cent of the total number of fatalities while the Western Region accounts for 28 per cent of the fatalities. The Central Region remains the area with the lowest number of fatalities, recording 12 per cent of the total.

Security Force Related Fatalities by Region



Eastern Region: Team A – Kingston and St. Andrew; **Special Case Unit (SCU)** – St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas.) and Team B – St. Catherine;
Central Region: Team C – Manchester, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann;
Western Region: Team D – St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland, Trelawny;

Security Force Related Fatalities 2011-2012-2013



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Over the past three years, the Commission's data has indicated increases in the number of fatalities each month. In 2011, some 210 fatalities were reported; in 2012, this number increased to 219, a 4 per cent increase. In 2013 however the percentage increase was significant, reaching double digits – 17.8 per cent.

Further, certain trends were noted upon analysis of the month on month data. Though steadily increasing, the data shows that the month of April always records the lowest number of fatalities. In 2013, this was the only month with a single digit recording, nine (9). In all the other months, more than a dozen civilians lost their lives in security force related incidents.

About INDECOM

The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) was established following prolonged public complaints that the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) of the Jamaica Constabulary Force should not investigate wrongdoings committed by the security forces. Further, under international law, the State has an obligation to ensure that independent investigations into a potential breach of the right to life are being carried out which is a requirement under Article 2 of the European Convention on the Human Rights to which Jamaica is a signatory.

The instances of abuse of citizens' rights have increased dramatically over the years. Civilians have made hundreds of reports about members of the security forces using unjustified force that results in fatalities, loss of property or assault. This concern resulted in legislation being passed to establish an independent commission with responsibility for investigating security force involved shootings as well as other instances of abuse. This piece of legislation now known as the INDECOM Act was passed on April 15, 2010. The Commission began operation on August 16, 2010.

The Commission is currently in charge of more than 1900 ongoing investigations into allegations of abuse by agents of the state, distributed over our three branches – St. James (Western Office), Mandeville (Central Office), and Kingston (Head Office). The cases date back to 2008, some two years before INDECOM began operations. Prior to that, they were being investigated by the Police Public Complaints Authority (PPCA) or the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI).

The allegations are divided into 23 categories, these include, fatalities (by shooting or under other circumstances); abuse of office; unprofessional conduct; assault; corruption, rape; misappropriation of property, and threat. The top three allegations are fatal shooting, assault and shooting injury, which when combined, account more than 60 per cent of all our investigations.

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