

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **INDECOM arrest and charge 2 police officers with murder in Westmoreland**

**April 12, 2016** - The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) this morning arrested and charged two police officers with murder.

Constables Duan Barrett and Sasamarley Barrett, both attached to a Fugitive Apprehension Unit within the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), were charged for the murder of Michael McKenzie, a resident of New Road, Westmoreland.

### **Court Results**

Both police officers appeared before Resident Magistrate Icolyn Reid in the Savanna-la-Mar RM Court. The accused men were represented by attorneys-at-law Mr. Herwin Smart and Mr. Michael Erskine who made bail applications on their behalf. They were offered bail in the sum of \$300,000 with 1-3 sureties. They were ordered to surrender their travel documents, and stop orders placed on them at all ports. No reporting conditions were ordered.

### **Background**

The police reported that on August 11, 2014 at approximately 4:30 a.m. a group of police officers went to a premises in New Road, Westmoreland allegedly to serve a warrant. It was reported that the police officers went into the room of the deceased where they were greeted with gunfire, the fire was returned and McKenzie was shot and killed. A firearm was allegedly recovered. The version of the police and that of civilian witnesses did not accord.

The matter is set for mention on June 21, 2016.