

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **INDECOM PROBING SEVERAL SHOOTING INCIDENTS**

**January 25, 2016** - The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) has launched investigations into several shooting incidents related to members of the security forces for the period of January 22-24, 2016.

**Friday, January 22, 2015**

### **St. James: INDECOM probing shooting injury of woman**

The Commission launched an investigation into the shooting injury of a woman in Mount Salem, St. James on Friday, January 22, 2016. The incident occurred at approximately 9:50 a.m.

It was reported to the Commission by the police that a group comprised of members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) stopped a car in the vicinity of Westgate Shopping Centre but the driver failed to stop. The police thereafter pursued the car along several roadways in the Montego Bay. Two officers in an unmarked police vehicle pursued the car.

Upon reaching the vicinity of the Calvary Baptist Church and Jarrett Park the police allegedly discharged their weapons. The motor car did not stop but proceeded towards Mt. Salem. While proceeding towards Mt. Salem the police officers again discharged their weapons. The car eventually turned into the parking lot of the West Jamaica Conference Centre. The car came to a stop and driver exited the car and ran.

It was then discovered that a female passenger seated in the rear seat of the car had been shot. One of the police officers transported the said passenger to the Cornwall Regional Hospital where she has been admitted.

A team from the Independent Commission of Investigations processed the scene which began in at Westgate and ended in Mount Salem. The firearms of the concerned officers were taken out of circulation and packaged for submission to the Government Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

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The concerned officers gave their initial account and served with notices to attend the Western Regional Office of INDECOM to be interviewed. They were interviewed today in the presence of their attorneys.

The Commission is asking anyone who may have witnessed or can provide any information about the incident to call its office in Montego Bay, St. James at **1.876.971.1672**, or call our mobile number at **1.876.878.0167**. Persons are also encouraged to call our new Toll Free Lines: **1.888.991.5555** or **1.888.935.5550**.

## **Sunday, January 24, 2016**

### **Kingston – INDECOM probes shooting injury of civilian on South Parade**

The Commission launched an investigation into the shooting injury of a man who appears to be of unsound mind.

The police reported that at approximately 2:45 p.m. a man was observed on Church Street armed with a piece of iron and stones. The man began throwing stones at persons who came close to him. The police allegedly made attempts to get them man to drop the missiles. He subsequently used the piece of iron to hit one of the police officers. The man was subsequently shot by the officer and was then taken to the Kingston Public Hospital where he was admitted.

A team from the Commission was dispatched to the scene where the concerned officers were questioned and served with Notices to furnish INDECOM with their accounts of the incident. Their firearms were also taken out of circulation, packaged and has since been sent to the Government Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

## **Sunday, January 24, 2016**

### **St. Catherine – INDECOM probing fatal shooting of Romeo Marks**

The Commission launched an investigation into the fatal shooting of a civilian at Dingnam Road Crescent, St Catherine. The incident occurred on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at approximately 4:40 a.m. on at a dance being held in the area. The deceased has been identified as Romeo Marks.

It was reported by the police to INDECOM that a dance was in progress when shots were fired after a popular song was played. The deceased, who was the security guard at the venue, was later found suffering from a gunshot wound. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

A team of investigators and forensic examiners responded to the incident, processed the scene and the body of the deceased. There were several police officers present at the event who were carrying licensed fire arms. The Commission packaged 11 licensed fire arms that have since been submitted to the Government Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

No witnesses have come forward regarding this incident, hence the Commission is appealing anyone who may have witnessed and can provide any information about the incident to call its

head office in Kingston at **1.876.968.1932**, or call our mobile number at **1.876.878.0167**. Persons are also encouraged to call our new Toll Free Lines: **1.888.991.5555** or **1.888.935.5550**.

## **Sunday, January 24, 2016**

### **St. Andrew – INDECOM probing death of unidentified male**

The Commission launched an investigation into the fatal shooting of an unidentified male on Sunday, January 24, 2016, on Spanish Town Road at approximately 4:15 a.m.

It was reported to the Commission that a team of three (3) police officers travelling along Spanish Town Road, were in confrontation with the deceased who allegedly fired in their direction. The fire was returned and the deceased man was hit. He was reportedly taken to the Kingston Public Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

A team from INDECOM attended and processed the scene, the body of the deceased and continue to make enquiries regarding incident in the vicinity. Investigators will be revisiting the community with a view to identifying possible witnesses and collecting more information.

Again, the Commission asks that anyone who may have witnessed or can provide any information about the incident to come forward and call its office in Kingston at **1.876.968.1932**, or call our mobile number at **1.876.878.0167**. Persons are also encouraged to call our new Toll Free Lines: **1.888.991.5555** or **1.888.935.5550**.

## **Sunday, January 24, 2016**

### **Kingston - Discharge of Firearm**

The Commission launched an investigation into a discharge of fire arm incident on Sunday, January 24, 2016.

It was reported to INDECOM that sometime after 2:00 am two police officers from the Motorized Patrol Division were travelling in a marked service vehicle in the Washington Gardens area. When they got to Colleyville Avenue, they saw a white Nissan Tiida motor car driving recklessly, they pursued. During the pursuit, a police unit from Kingston Eastern Division intercept the Nissan Tiida and was hit by that vehicle. The driver of the car allegedly fired at the police and the fire was returned.

The Nissan Tiida continued driving, then crashed into a wall. At this point, the two occupants of the vehicle allegedly escaped.

The scene was processed by INDECOM's forensic team as well a team from Area 4 Scenes of Crime.

Some of the involved officers gave an initial account for the incident. All were served with Notices to furnish INDECOM with statements on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016. All fire arms involved in the incident were taken out of circulation for submission to the Government Forensic Laboratory for analysis.

No witnesses have come forward in relation to his incident. END

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