

PRESS RELEASE

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INDECOM probing fatal shooting in Wakefield - Appeals for cooperation

May 11, 2016 - The Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) has launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Jeffery Richards on May 10, 2016 at approximately 4:30 a.m. in Wakefield District, Trelawny.

The Commission is appealing to anyone who may have witnessed or have information relating to this fatal shooting to come forward and assist. Persons can visit or make contact with the Western Regional Officer at 1-876-971-1672 (Montego Bay, St. James), or call our mobile number 1-876-878-0167. Persons are also encouraged to call our **Toll Free Incident and Tip Lines: 1-888-935 -5550 (D) or 1-888-991-5555.**

The report received by INDECOM from the police states that at approximately 1:45 a.m. three police officers from the Wakefield Police Station were carrying out a "Snap Raid Operation." According to the police, they went to the deceased man's house, knocked on the door and shouted "Jeffery Richards, police come out!" It is alleged that the deceased exited the house through a back door, armed with a machete, when a confrontation with him and the police ensued.

Richards was shot during the confrontation and subsequently taken to the Falmouth General Public Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

A team of investigators and forensic examiners attended the scene of this incident. The scene and the body of the deceased man was processed; the concerned officers were interviewed and served with Notices to provide INDECOM with their account of the incident. The weapons of the concerned officers were also taken out of circulation and packaged to be submitted to the Government Forensic Laboratory for analysis.