



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

**Jamaica Welcomes Deepened Security Partnership with United States to Combat
Transnational Organised Crime**

The Government of Jamaica welcomes the deepening of its longstanding security partnership with the Government of the United States of America as both countries strengthen cooperation against transnational organised criminal networks involved in the trafficking of illegal guns, narcotics and other illicit activities through Jamaica and across the Caribbean.

The enhanced partnership represents yet another stage in decades of cooperation between Jamaica and the United States in national security, law enforcement, defence, counter-narcotics, maritime security, intelligence sharing, training and capacity development.

In this context, Jamaica also continues to work closely with its Caribbean and hemispheric partners and is also strengthening cooperation with partners in Europe and beyond, reflecting the increasingly global character, reach and sophistication of the criminal networks that threaten Jamaica and other countries in the region.

Jamaica has been invited to several security partnerships as our successful approach of using joint military-police command and operational coordination with sustained social intervention and violence-prevention measures in vulnerable communities to reduce crime, has increasingly attracted the attention of international partners.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang recently represented Jamaica at the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition Forum in Panama, which brought together countries from across the hemisphere which agreed in March 2026, to bolster cooperation against transnational criminal organisations.

At the meeting, Dr. Chang said the changing nature of organised crime requires countries across the hemisphere to work more closely together.

“The scale, financial resources and technological capabilities of criminal networks threatening Jamaica today do not recognise national borders. The guns entering our communities, the drugs moving through the Caribbean and the financial networks supporting organised crime are transnational and if not tackled, they will threaten the security and institutional stability of small island states like ours. They are an existential threat to our survival. A pragmatic and effective response must combine strong domestic security capabilities with effective international cooperation,” he shared.



@MNSGOVJM

During the meeting, United States Secretary of War Pete Hegseth acknowledged Jamaica's growing security partnership with the United States and its contribution to efforts to combat narcotics trafficking and organised criminal activity across the Caribbean.

Jamaica's participation in the partnership remains firmly grounded in the country's own national interests and established laws and principles. The Government of Jamaica remains committed to cooperation that reinforces the capacity of Jamaican institutions, protects Jamaica's borders and maritime space, disrupts the movement of illegal firearms and narcotics, and makes Jamaican communities safer.

Jamaica will continue to pursue these objectives with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, including international law.

-30-



@MNSGOVJM