



**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Minister Chang Commends Officers Injured in Mount Salem Confrontation

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security and Peace, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, has expressed concern about the shooting and injury of three members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) during an armed confrontation with highly dangerous criminals in the Mount Salem Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) in St. James early this morning (September 9).

The three officers, Corporal Ricardo Smellie, Constable Jaburer Martinez and Constable Chevanese Griffiths, were injured during the encounter and have been taken to hospital, where they are receiving medical treatment.

“I wish to commend these officers for their courage, professionalism and bravery in responding to what was clearly a highly dangerous situation. I am relieved that, despite sustaining injuries, they were able to respond effectively, resulting in the fatal shooting of a dangerous criminal,” said Dr. Chang.

This incident is a stark reminder of the nature of the threat faced by the security forces. Police officers routinely confront individuals who are armed, dangerous and willing to use violence against those who stand between them and their criminal activities.

“We cannot lose sight of the human cost of this work. Behind every uniform is a police officer with a family and loved ones who are waiting and hoping for their safe return. My thoughts are with Corporal Smellie, Constable Martinez and Constable Griffiths, and I wish each of them a full and speedy recovery. I also extend my support to their families at this time,” he continued.

The incident also reinforces the importance of sustaining the security gains made in communities such as Mount Salem. While the restoration of peace and order does not mean the threat of criminality disappears, the Ministry and the JCF remain vigilant and will ensure that criminal elements are not allowed to reclaim communities from which they have been displaced.

“I remain confident in the professionalism, training and operational capabilities of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The Government will continue to support our security personnel as they carry out the difficult and necessary work of protecting our citizens



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and preserving safer communities. Our police officers deserve our support and our gratitude. Today, I especially commend the three officers who put themselves in harm's way in the service of Jamaica," the security minister expressed.

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