

# 3 sisters go missing

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

A Belize City family is asking the public to be on the lookout for three sisters, ages 15, 11, and 10 years old, who went missing on Wednesday afternoon. According to reports, the three girls, Kaylin, Katlyn, and Kayc'lyn Diego, left their home on Cleghorn Street at some time around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and since then their whereabouts have been unknown.

AMANDALA spoke with a friend of the girls' family, Hiroshima Laureano, who was also one of the last persons to have seen the trio before they disappeared. She told us that at the time she, regrettably, didn't



*Kaylin, Katlyn and Kayc'lyn Diego, missing*

think anything out of the norm was happening when she encountered two of the three siblings near JEC on Youth for the Future Drive. She did, however, note that one of the girls, 11-year-old Katlyn, was wearing a thick grey sweater in the afternoon heat. She asked the two girls if they

were okay, and they replied that they were taking a walk.

Then, at around 3:00 p.m., as she neared her home, Laureano says she saw the oldest sister, Kaylin, going to meet the other two.

"I would have never thought in a million years that that is what was

happening," said Laureano, who told us she was utterly shocked when she saw the news the following morning.

Kaylin Diego, 15, is of brown complexion and has a short afro hairstyle. She is of medium build and weighs about 120 lbs. She was last seen wearing a light yellow blouse, long blue jeans and a pair of Nike slippers.

Katlyn Diego, 11, also of brown complexion, has her hair in an afro style and weighs approximately 95 lbs.

She is slim built and stands at 5 feet 1 inch in height.

Kayc'lyn Diego, 10, has her hair braided into singles. She weighs about 90 lbs and is 4 feet 4 inches tall. The three girls are of Garifuna descent.

It has been asked that anyone who sees the girls kindly call 911 or 922.

# Swing Bridge and Belcan Bridge to be replaced

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Wed. May 11, 2022

Currently, construction is underway as part of a government effort to erect new structures that will replace the current Haulover Bridge located just outside of Belize City on the Philip Goldson Highway, which has been operational since 1949. A Government of Belize Press Office release in

January informed the public that "two permanent mid-river foundation piers" are being constructed in the Belize River "at a location just downstream of the existing bridge." According to Minister of Infrastructure Development, Hon. Julius Espat, that work, which is being carried out by M&M Engineering Consultants Ltd., is "on stream" and "on schedule". "We also have the portion of that road

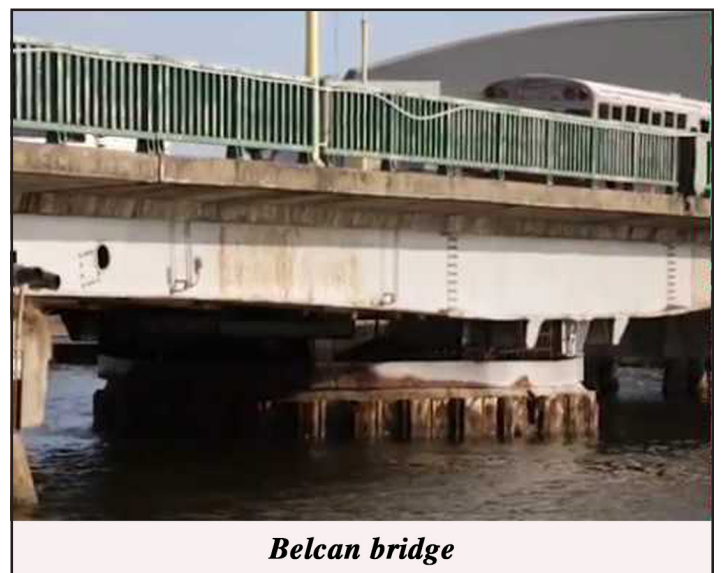
**The Minister of Infrastructure and Development, Hon. Julius Espat, told reporters that both the Swing Bridge and Belcan Bridge need to be replaced.**

leading after the Haulover Bridge that was washed away by the river. That's already—the retaining wall has had been cast. They're curing right now, and after that, they will be placed," he told local reporters on Tuesday of this week at a ceremony for the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project.

Hon. Espat revealed, however, that two much-used bridges within Belize City—the iconic Swing Bridge in downtown Belize City and Belcan Bridge, located near to Save U Supermarket—will also have to undergo extensive repairs and might in fact have to be replaced. He said that efforts are currently underway to secure the needed financing to carry out those projects.

"We did some engineering analysis of the Swing Bridge, and I did—I specifically told the engineers to take a boat and go under the Bel China to do an analysis and to go under the Belcan Bridge. The three reports came in. Swing Bridge has to be replaced. But, because of the work that was

recently done, it prolongs the life a little bit more. The one that worries me is the Belcan. The Belcan Bridge is in a state of disrepair that only if you go under the bridge will you understand. So, I went, and I am seeking financing. I think we are very close to obtaining financing to replace both the Swing Bridge and the Belcan Bridge, because if not, somebody will get hurt, and we don't want that," stated Minister Espat.



*Belcan bridge*



*Swing Bridge*

# Killer of Oh sisters gets two life sentences

**Wilmer Escobar will be eligible for parole after 30 years and 8 months.**

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. May 12, 2022

Yesterday, 24-year-old Wilmer Escobar, a resident of Bella Vista village in Toledo, was sentenced to 35 years in prison in the Southern session of the Supreme Court for the 2018 double murder of Cresencia Oh, 19, and Josephine. Oh, 17—two sisters who resided in San Antonio village in the Toledo district. Justice Antoinette Moore, who presided over a trial without jury that started in November of 2021, handed down the sentences, which will run concurrently. Since Escobar had been on remand for four years and four months, he will actually spend an additional 30 years and 8 months in prison before being eligible for parole.

In January of 2018, the sisters, who were heading back to their home in San Antonio village after attending a church service in San Jose village in Toledo, were chopped to death by Escobar on an off-road near San Antonio Village, Toledo, and forensic evidence gathered from the



**Wilmer Escobar -- sentenced to 35 years in prison**

bodies at the time indicated that they had been raped as well. The victims were found partially nude on the road, with a number of chop wounds in their head.

Last November, when the trial of Escobar started, he was being represented by the late Herbert Panton and the case was prosecuted by Crown Counsel Javier Chan, who secured the admission of a confession statement given by Escobar to police. In that statement, he admitted to killing both sisters and raping one of them.