

# 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Senior Courts Bill passed

*This transformation of the judiciary will be effected through the 12<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment. A bill for an act to repeal the Supreme Court of Judicature and Court of Appeal Act was read a third time as well.*



**Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education**

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022  
 At today's sitting of the House of Representatives, the third reading was carried out for the 12<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment and the Senior Courts Bill. The amendment, which seeks to



**Magali Marin Young, Attorney**

execute a transformation of Belize's judiciary, was debated in brief. During that debate, the Opposition – who had just two members present – highlighted

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## PC Arzu succumbs to her injuries

*The inquiry into the circumstances that led to the shooting of the police constable and one civilian has now become a murder investigation.*

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

PC Lorry Arzu succumbed to her injuries after four days on life support. Arzu, who was shot in the head during an incident in the New Site area of Dangriga on Wednesday, passed away around 10:30 on Sunday morning while in the Intensive Care Unit of the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. She had undergone brain surgery on the night she was admitted into the hospital but remained in a critical condition up until the time of her passing.

Police Communications Director, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, on Monday

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**Lorry Celia Arzu, PC No. 88**

## People's Constitutional Commission legislated



**Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of Constitutional Reform**

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022  
 Today the bill for an act to establish the People's Constitutional

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## Appeal Court upholds \$90K defamation judgment



**PM John Briceño**



**Karen Bevans**

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 14, 2022

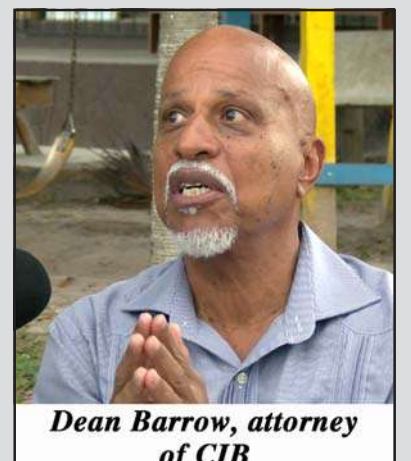
This week, the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of former Supreme Court justice Westmin James to award Karen Bevans \$90,000 in a defamation lawsuit brought against Prime Minister John Briceño, and RSV Media Ltd., the parent company of LOVE News. The award was handed down in August of last year and is in connection to remarks made by the Prime

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## FIU's application to seize \$3.1 million is flawed, says Barrow

ORANGE WALK, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

Today, the Financial Intelligence Unit's application for a court order that would enable it to seize BZ\$3.1 million found in a safe at the Caribbean International Brewery



**Dean Barrow, attorney of CIB**

Limited's factory in Carmelita Village will be heard in the Orange Walk Magistrate's Court. Last Friday, the FIU brought an application to have the funds seized by court order for the next three months. These funds were found during a multi-agency raid of the factory that took place last week.

If their application is **Please turn to** ▶ Page 15

# Team Belize wins Gold at Robotics Competition

by *Khaila Gentle*

GENEVA, Switzerland, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

The members of the Belize High School Robotics Team won the gold prize at the FIRST Global Challenge 2022. The challenge, which saw participation from 180 teams from across the world, is an Olympics-style international robotics competition for high-school-aged youth that takes place in a different country each year. For the past two years, the competition has been a virtual one due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, but on October 13, participants and their mentors gathered

face-to-face in Geneva, Switzerland. FIRST Global, a non-profit



**Belize High School Robotics Team wins Gold**

*The team of Belize High School students took part in the FIRST Global Challenge 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 13 - 16. The Olympics-style competition featured teams from over 180 countries.*



## Teen fatally hit by car driven by best friend

by *Charles Gladden*

LADYVILLE, Belize District, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

A teen riding a motorcycle between Miles 12 and 13 of the Philip Goldson Highway was fatally hit by a car being driven by his best friend early on Friday morning, October 14, as they both were traveling to an apparently common destination after socializing together during the previous night.

According to police reports, around 1:00 o'clock Friday morning, the victim, Daniel Thompson, 19, a Ladyville resident, was riding his motorcycle – allegedly without tail lights – on the Philip Goldson Highway, toward the Burrell Boom junction, while his friend, William Faux, 19, also of Ladyville, was driving behind him in a Dodge Challenger, when the car hit the back of Thompson's motorcycle—causing him to be flung 35 feet away from the highway.

When police arrived at the scene, they found Thompson's motionless body with various injuries. His motorcycle, which lay 50 feet away, was completely destroyed, and the front portion of Faux's Dodge Challenger was extensively damaged.

Bayron Perez, Thompson's brother, told 7News that his brother has experience in riding motorcycles and had recently gotten back his bike earlier that week after it was repaired.

"He was very experienced in riding motorcycles ... That bike was repaired Tuesday, so he recently just got back into riding again," he said.

Perez says Thompson and Faux were best friends and Faux was considered a part of the family.

"To my knowledge, both of them were traveling up north. It seems that the Dodge lost control and hit him. In fact, both of them were best friends actually. So I know it wasn't something intentional, but we can't avoid the fact that it happened ... It



**Daniel Thompson, deceased**



**Extensively damaged Dodge Challenger**

[resentment] would be something that he wouldn't want us to have, because really and truly, they were hanging out that same night, to my knowledge, and both of them see each other almost every day. It's really like a best friend thing they had," he said.

Thompson was taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. He was employed at Triple L Construction as a deliveryman and started working after attending Tubal Trade & Vocational Institute in Ladyville.

Faux was taken into police custody; however, charges have not been levied against him, as police are yet trying to determine the cause of the accident.

organization, was established to promote science and technology leadership and innovation among young people through the sport of robotics. Each year, the organization invites countries to send a team to build and program a robot to compete in the FIRST Global Challenge. The focus of the competition is addressing some of the greatest challenges faced by the globe.

"Participants will see how they can compete to each provide better solutions, but more importantly, how they can work together. We're all on the same team. We're all competing with the same global challenges. The FIRST Global Challenge enables kids around the world to all participate in solving problems, and cooperate with each other to solve the world's problems," said the founder of FIRST Global, Dean Kamen.

This year's theme was "Carbon Capture." Throughout the challenge, nation teams—in groups of three or four—competed to capture and store carbon, which, according to FIRST Global, demonstrated the collective effort that is required to protect the atmosphere and slow the effects of climate change. It also highlighted the importance of collaborating across places of origin, religions, and cultures, to build a better tomorrow.

Belize, along with Switzerland, Botswana, and Lithuania, made up the winning alliance of the competition's final match.

Today, during the Sitting of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister John Briceño rose to congratulate Team Belize for a job well done.

"Here we have little Belize taking on huge countries, much more developed countries, and our students, our country, won the FIRST gold medal," he said.

Team Belize was made up of Belize High School students Justin Zhou, who acted as team captain; co-captain Benny He, Jaden Chen, Melysa Choi, and

Tristian Bradley. The team's mascot was the scarlet macaw, and they were accompanied by their mentor and the school's principal, Jamie Usher, who said on Saturday that the students will be taking home the invaluable life lessons that they have been taught throughout its course.

"This competition is a reminder that it is not always about winning but it is about competing collaboratively. A big part [and] a big transition for our teenagers in this competition is that it is about meeting people and working with them rather than getting your own way," she said.

The students were also mentored by Godfrey Sosa, Gustavo Carrillo, Ray Liang, Luis Silva, and Armando Morales. The students' winning robot was named Kaax, after the Maya god who is the protector of wildlife.

Per *Caribbean Loop News*, this is the first time that a team from the Caribbean has won a medal at the competition. In 2018, Jamaica placed 15th, which was the region's best performance up until now.



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# Lord Rhaburn, Rt. Hon. Said Musa awarded honorary doctorates

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Sun. Oct. 16, 2022

This past weekend, both famed musician Gerald “Lord” Rhaburn and former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Said Musa were awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Belize. The university’s commencement exercise for the class of 2022, a total of 1,069 graduates, was held on Saturday at the Belize City Civic Center and was their first post-COVID graduation ceremony held in person.

Dr. Gerald “Lord” Rhaburn was recognized by the university for his “immeasurable contributions to cultural development and preservation” with an honorary Doctorate of Arts. Rhaburn, who rose to fame in the 70s, has long been dubbed the country’s King of Calypso. Now, at the age of 86, he remains a hallmark in the breakdown, calypso, soca, and reggae scenes.

The honorary Doctorate of Arts degree is the university’s highest recognition of cultural contribution to humanity. Rhaburn was adorned with the traditional gown and cap worn by PhD graduates across the world by

the president of the University of Belize, Dr. Vincent Palacio, and the chairman of the university’s board of trustees, Anthony Sylvester, Jr.

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Said Musa, for his five decades of service to the nation, received an honorary Doctorate of Law. While he was unable to attend the ceremony in person due to his health, Hon. Musa was praised by the university’s faculty and staff nonetheless. Dr. Martin Cuellar, the Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Belize, referred to the former Prime Minister as a lifelong statesman and a “champion of Belize” who “continues to conjure images of a giant among men for his verve and courage.”

Musa is the nation’s first post-independence prime minister to serve two terms. He also made integral contributions to Belize’s push for self-governance and its acceptance into the United Nations. In addition to serving as the country’s prime minister, he also served as senator, Attorney General, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Education, and Minister of Economic Development. Prior to the graduation ceremony, Palacio visited the Rt. Hon Said Musa



**Dr. Gerald “Lord” Rhaburn and Rt. Hon. Dr. Said Musa**

at his home to bestow upon him his academic garb.

“I am honored to have been granted this honorary doctorate in law by the University of Belize. I want to thank the university. Thank you, Dr. Vincent Palacio, the president. And I want to congratulate all the graduates.

Today, you have graduated from a very distinguished institution,” said an emotional Musa.

On Saturday, Minister of Home Affairs and son of the former Prime Minister, Hon. Kareem Musa, received his honorary doctorate degree on his behalf.

## Brake failure causes collision at Belmopan Bus Terminal

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

An employee at the Belmopan Bus Terminal is lucky to have escaped with only minor injuries after a Westline bus crashed into the terminal building on Saturday evening. Surveillance camera footage of the incident indicates that the collision occurred when the passenger bus pulled into a parking spot but continued forward, driving over the yellow parking block and then hitting a desk near the boarding area. That desk, which ended up crushed against the wall, was where Kimara Montes, the terminal supervisor, was seated before she managed to narrowly escape.

Montes was not supposed to have been on duty on Saturday, but according to the Minister of Transport,



**Westline Bus crashes into terminal wall**

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, she had taken over the shift of an assistant supervisor that was unable to work that day.

The cause of the collision, which almost led to the loss of a life, was brake failure. The management of Westline has reached out to the Ministry of Transport since the incident took place and has offered to assist Ms. Montes with her hospital bill.

“It could have been very, very fatal. Because, if someone was sitting at the desk, that person would have gotten crushed between the bus and the wall,” said Minister Ferguson.

The Belize Bus Association has



**Kimara Montes injured by accident**

## 1 dead, 3 injured in Boom shooting



**(l-r): Veris Ventura, deceased; Tanisha Banner and Lee Busano, injured**

by *Charles Gladden*

BURRELL BOOM, Belize District, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

A shooting after a concert held on Sunday, October 16, in Burrell Boom Village, Belize District, has claimed the life of Veris Ventura, a resident of Reggae Street in Belize City, and injured three other persons: Lee Busano, 35, a member of the Belize Coast Guard; Tanisha Banner, 33, of Double Head Cabbage, and Chesterfield Baptist, 18.

A little after 11:00 that night, Busano along with Banner and Baptist entered his black Chevy Equinox vehicle and departed from the concert in Burrell Boom and headed toward Double Head Cabbage Village. Less than a mile away from their destination, they were approached by Ventura in an SUV. Ventura then fired shots at Busano’s vehicle, and Busano fired several shots in return with a licensed firearm at Ventura’s vehicle.

Busano and his two passengers later received treatment at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. Ventura was also taken to the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, but he succumbed to his

injuries after 1:00 a.m. while undergoing treatment.

Several expended 9mm shells were found at the scene of the shooting, and there were several visible bullet holes on Busano’s Chevy Equinox.

Charges may not be brought against Busano, since it currently appears that he fired his weapon at Ventura in an act of self-defense. Nonetheless, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, Communications Director of the Belize Police Department, told members of the local media that the matter will be reviewed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will determine whether any charges will be brought against Busano.

“From the eyewitnesses report, it would suggest that the initial contact was made by Ventura. Unfortunately for Ventura, Mr. Busano had a licensed gun on him, which he used. So [after] the investigation, we will submit the file to the DPP and will be guided [by] that office as to if any charges will be levied. So for now, we can only leave it as a death investigation,” said ASP Yearwood.

Busano, Baptist, and Banner are currently listed in critical condition at the KMH.

## Receding floodwaters in Cayo affecting Central Belize

**NEMO continues to warn persons in flood prone areas to heed their advisories and take the necessary precautions to prevent loss of life.**

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

The most recent flood advisory from the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and the country's Hydrology Department has warned of increasing water levels in the Central Belize area. The gradual swelling of the Belize River, which is an aftereffect of Hurricane Julia, is due to the movement of water downstream from Cayo to the coast and has residents of the Belize River Valley bracing for flooding.

Already, villagers in Isabella Bank have reported exceedingly high river levels, and reports from NEMO reveal that the Freetown Sibun area has become inaccessible by small vehicles.

The advisory, released on Friday, warns that the water levels at the Crooked Tree Lagoon are expected to exceed the causeway. Areas to be impacted by the rising waters include much of the rural Belize District—Isabella Bank, Lemonal, Rancho Dolores, Willows Bank, Double Head Cabbage, Bermudian Landing, Scotland Halfmoon, Flowers Bank, Burrell Boom, Maypen, Crooked Tree, and Gracie Rock. It is also quite possible that the outer limits of Belize City will be affected.

On Wednesday, NEMO conducted a damage assessment flyover on the Cayo District. There, floodwaters, while still present, have begun to gradually recede and are expected to continue to



Source: NEMO

do so as the levels of the Mopan River, the Macal River, and the Sibun River all begin to decrease. The San Ignacio Wooden Bridge and the Xunantunich ferries, however, both remain closed, and 96 persons (about 25 families) remain in shelters.

Last week, during a press conference, The National Coordinator of NEMO, Colonel Shelton Defour, said that NEMO has been advising those in the Belize River Valley to follow advisories and move to safer locations.

"The water is cresting in the Belize River in the Cayo District—it's moving downhill at a rapid pace, and so with the inundation, where the ground was already saturated in those areas due to pooling and accumulation of water, it means now that you have this second wave of floodwaters that will reach into places like Crooked Tree," Defour had said.

His warning was reiterated on Friday with the latest advisory, which states, "If you live near to a river, creek, or low-lying area, take the necessary actions to save your life."

NEMO advises members of the public to avoid walking, playing, or driving in floodwaters and to secure all belongings as well as to avoid waiting until it is too late to seek shelter if necessary.

## PM: many names have come up in search for PSC chair

**One such name is Ms. Diana Murillo Price, a public officer of over four decades who has stated that she is more than willing to take up the mantle.**

by *Khaila Gentle*

BELMOPAN, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

The Government of Belize has yet to find a suitable candidate to take up the position of the Chairperson of the Public Services Commission—a delay that the Public Service Union (PSU) has publicly, and frequently, decried. On September 22 of this year, we reported that Cresencio Sosa had been nominated for the position of chairman. Last week, however, it was revealed by PSU president Dean Flowers that Sosa had withdrawn from consideration for the post. According to Prime Minister John Briceño, that is because Sosa fell ill shortly before he was set to start his work as the Chairman of the PSC.

Since then, says Prime Minister Briceño, the government has been attempting to find someone that "would meet the criteria and will be able to do a good job." That includes getting rid of all the backlog that the Public Services Commission is currently faced with.

The Prime Minister noted that many names have come up in the search for a chairperson, but many of those persons, though they were seen as competent, were deemed "too close to the PUP".

According to Hon. Briceño, the government concluded that it would be best to take time and find a suitable candidate rather than quickly nominating someone "just because."

One person up for consideration, and likely to take up the position, is Ms. Diana

Murillo Price, who has served as a public officer for over four decades now. The Prime Minister said that he recently interviewed Murillo, who is expected to retire from her position as a public officer in the next few weeks and has expressed willingness to do the job.

On Thursday, the Public Service Union, via press release, endorsed Mr. Alfredo Cruz for the position, with the PSU president highlighting the fact that Cruz is "knowledgeable and experienced in the inner workings of the Commission."

In speaking with the media on Monday, the Prime Minister confirmed that Cruz's name had come up in discussions on who could be eligible for the post. He said, however, that for reasons he did not wish to comment on, Cruz was not considered.

The Prime Minister added that while the recommendations made by the PSU are not ignored, the PSU president could do so in a more respectful manner.

In their press release, the PSU also highlighted the fact that the lack of a Public Services Commission Chairperson has led to numerous delays and inconveniences for public officers, especially those who are retired and have had to contend with delays in their retirement benefits.

"As soon as Ms. Murillo takes that position, trust me, we will ensure that we can get that done as quickly as we possibly can, but we want to make sure that we find the right person," said the Prime Minister.

## Guatemalan NOC suspended by IOC Exec. Board

by *Marco Lopez*

Yesterday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced its decision to suspend Guatemala's National Olympic Committee effective Saturday, October 15. The suspension of the NOC follows a September 8 decision that was made by the executive board, after Guatemala's NOC and relevant authorities failed to reach a resolution regarding the presidency of the NOC in that country. The former NOC president, Gerardo Aguirre, had been blocked from running for re-election, which resulted in the stalemate.

Aguirre challenged the amendment, but the Guatemala Constitutional Court ruled his action was unconstitutional—a move seen by the IOC as government intervention. This led to Guatemala's suspension from the NOC until the NOC meets and finds an acceptable solution in line with the IOC executive board September 8 decision, which required Guatemala to resolve the matter to avoid being banned from international participation.

No such meeting was held in Guatemala to ensure such a resolution, and as a result, it was decided that



Guatemalan athletes can no longer represent the country or compete under the country's flag or name at the Olympic Games or other international multi-sport events. This will directly impact those athletes desirous of participating in the 2024 Summer Olympics.

In addition, the NOC of Guatemala is no longer entitled to operate as a national committee under the Olympic Charter, and will no longer receive any funds from the Olympic Movement.

This is until the suspension is lifted. The release from the IOC states, "In the interest of the athletes and the Olympic Movement in Guatemala, the IOC has urged the NOC and the relevant authorities in Guatemala to meet and find an acceptable solution in line with the IOC Executive Board decision of 8 September 2022, which would allow the IOC Executive Board to lift the suspension of the NOC as soon as possible."

## COMPOL goes to New Delhi

by *Charles Gladden*

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

Over the weekend, Commissioner of Police, Chester Williams departed the country en route to New Delhi, India, where he will be attending the 90<sup>th</sup> Interpol General Assembly from October 18 to 22.

The General Assembly is Interpol's supreme governing body and comprises delegates appointed by the governments of its member countries who meet annually to discuss major decisions affecting general policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods, finances, and programs of activities.

At this year's General Assembly, there will be presentations, workshops, and discussions focused on the future of policing; policing today's crimes, which include financial crime; anti-corruption, cybercrime, crime against children, and the I-Familia database that features the



**Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police**

use of family DNA matching to identify missing persons.

Also, documents providing an overview of the main crime threats in the world will be issued and elections will be held to fill two vacant posts on the executive committee: the vice president for Europe, and the delegate for Africa.



# Another murder!? Lord help us!

**“Take me back, to my old home, Belize! There is not a place so fine!”  
– Mr. Wilfred Peters**

Monday, October 17, 2022

Belize no gaan yet! There is still a lot of love in this little Jewel; but there is also a whole lot of heartbreak and anguish, as every week there are reports of another murder, or two, or three, each with a heart-wrenching story of loved ones overcome with grief and pain. And it has reached the point where, more and more citizens are crying out in frustration for a return to carrying out the death penalty as something that might put an end to, or at least drastically reduce the number of productive citizens being lost to violent deaths by the gun or machete. But is that the answer?

Our justice system seems overwhelmed with the number of new cases piling up, as police investigators and our courts battle to keep pace with the plethora of crimes of all sorts, especially economic crimes like theft, robbery, burglary, as well as home invasions and other violent offences such as common assault, wounding, maim, etc. as everyone seems to be on edge. Then there are the murders – some carried out during violent robberies, while others have resulted from emotional revenge vendettas, jealous love, gang turf battles, victims getting caught in a crossfire, or the seemingly more common drug-related “hit” —a targeted, cold blooded execution by a hired “gunman” who may have no personal relationship with the targeted individual. It has been generally accepted that the conviction rate for murder in Belize is less than 10 per cent of those charged. Our Commissioner of Police has publicly lamented the futility of police efforts when critical eye-witnesses, on whom a case often depends, decline to give evidence in court for fear of losing their very lives after receiving threats.

In this prevailing climate of fear and dread that citizens are compelled to live under, aside from the many still grieving the loss of loved ones, more and more people are calling for bringing back the death penalty, but there

are at least two important factors often overlooked in that train of thought.

First, the death penalty as a possible deterrent to murders can only be such if the perpetrator is convicted, and such may become even harder if the anticipation is real of possible hanging. Witnesses may be even harder to come by. And with well-schooled defence lawyers and often inept or over-worked police investigators, the would-be killers may remain confident of their chances of escaping conviction and the gallows.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, despite our gut feelings, there is a strong argument that past experience suggests little correlation between the murder rate and application of the death penalty. True, in the old colonial days in Belize when hanging was the norm, murders were few. But then, the whole society was different. There was not a 60 percent poverty rate coexisting with obscene wealth, where hunger is a daily reality for many, while they see others living the lifestyle of the rich and famous. Crack cocaine had not turned our social lives upside down, with victims strewn all across the nation; while others are effectively employed in the illegal drug trade, and are “strapped” with lethal weapons to defend their “turf.” We

can look at the numbers in places where the death penalty has been enforced, and it doesn’t show the effect we would expect. For example, Amnesty International USA ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)) tracked the murder rate in all the states of the U.S. that practiced the death penalty, and those that did not apply the death penalty. And, interestingly, the murder rate fluctuated between the period from 1990 to 2010 in almost the same way with the two sets of states; and in fact, in every year, the states that practiced the death penalty had a higher murder rate than the states that did not use the death penalty. According to their report, “A 2009 survey of criminologists revealed that over 88% believed the death penalty was NOT a deterrent to murder.”

So, despite our emotions and frustration with this terrible problem, we may be barking up the wrong tree. Curtis Mayfield once sang, “People are the same everywhere. They have the same fears, shed similar tears, die in so many years.” But it all depends on the conditions in which people are living. Crime and poverty just seem to go together in the big scheme of things. And the caravans of people running away from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and even Mexico (We in Belize have traditionally had less difficulty gaining access to the U.S.), are mostly poor people seeking out a better life, or not so poor people trying to escape the crime and violence spawned by poverty and exacerbated by the “drug war” in their native lands.

Reviewing the murder rate per 100,000 citizens on the world list in the last two decades of the new millennium is so much like separating the “haves” from the “have nots”. According to [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), the numbers reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) show some revealing trends, although the individual accuracy of reported numbers cannot always be verified. While the average for the whole world (195 countries examined) was 6.1 murders per 100,000, Europe, Oceania and Asia all averaged 3.0 or fewer murders per 100,000 of their population. What effectively raised the global average figure was the high murder rate in Africa and the Americas, which together averaged over 15.0 murders per 100,000, which is five times the average for Europe, Oceania and Asia.

In this age of discussion and debate about “Reparations” for the damage suffered due to centuries of slavery and exploitation, the effects are quite graphic when one observes the murder rate figures for countries in the Americas which endured European colonization followed with neo-colonization by big brother USA; and what they all had in common was the presence of significant numbers of African and indigenous people enduring centuries of exploitation of their labor and resources.

While the U.S. is currently sending billions of dollars in arms to help the Ukrainians fight their war with Russia, impoverished Central American and Caribbean caravan travellers are making their way north to try and escape the murderous climate of poverty at home and get a piece of “the American pie”. But instead of helping to build the economies of these countries, the U.S. keeps “knocking them down” with “embargoes” and “sanctions”, often intervening on the side of dictatorial and exploitative puppet-leaders, or sending guns and ammunition to fight a drug war that ends up killing more and more poor people in these nations.

Contributing writer Helen Clark in an article “George Schultz was among the first to understand drug policy and prohibition” (at [thehill.com](http://thehill.com) dated 02/21/21), said that “Shultz, who died this month at age 100, was a secretary in the Nixon administration at the announcement of the war on drugs in 1971,” and he was of the opinion that “the impacts of drug policies in the Western Hemisphere, supported politically, financially and militarily by the U.S., outsourced the violence, in effect, to Mexico and Guatemala and Honduras. And earlier, Colombia.” And we may include Belize in that list. For comparison, during a similar period, [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com) had Canada at 2.0, and USA at 6.3; while Mexico was at 28.4, Belize 25.7, Guatemala 22.5, Honduras 36.3, and El Salvador at 37.2 murders per 100,000.

Former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz strongly advocated an end to the “war on drugs,” and that might just be what would stem this terrible tide of violence and murder in our once peaceful Belize. However, the U.S. gun manufacturing industry is doing good business; they are “awash with cash” from agents of the same illegal drug dealers at whom the so-called “war on drugs” is targeted.

We’re in a tough spot, Belizeans; but our forebears have been through centuries of much worse. We’ll get through this because we still have the love, and love conquers all. And remember, this is still our “old home, Belize;” and “There is not a place so fine!”



(estb. 1969)

**Business and editorial offices:  
3304 Partridge Street, Belize  
City, Belize, Central America  
is printed twice weekly by the  
Amandala Press.**

**Telephones: 501-280-4703/  
501-202-4477**

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# Towards Transformation of the Development Model in Latin America and the Caribbean

by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

In 2022, Latin American and Caribbean countries are facing the effects of a series of shocks that have deteriorated their investment and production conditions, including the global financial crisis, economic tensions between major poles of the global economy, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the resurgence of inflation, in a context in which the environmental emergency is worsening and the technological revolution is accelerating. Numerous analysts and international organizations talk about a series of cascading crises, citing among them the crises related to the climate, health, employment, social matters, education, food security, energy and the cost of living – all of which have impacts of varying intensity and characteristics on numerous countries, including those in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The fight against inflation has toughened global financial conditions and increased volatility in financial markets and risk aversion. This has raised the cost of debt service, further reducing fiscal space and increasing the risk of a recession in the global economy in 2023. The growth rates estimated for the vast majority of the world's countries in 2023 have been revised downward recently by various

organizations.

In the region, the combination of external and domestic factors stemming from the policy decisions made, or from the absence of such decisions, has reduced the capacity for economic growth and quality job creation and hampered its fight against poverty and extreme poverty. Its economic and social structures have weakened and have fallen into situations that reinforce the inertia of a weak economic performance.

Faced with this reality, ECLAC advocates for Latin America and the Caribbean to redouble its efforts to both reactivate its economies as well as to transform countries' development models, centering these efforts around policies for productive transformation and diversification along with a big, public and private investment push, which would allow for accelerating structural change and technological and digital transformation to achieve high, sustained growth and sustainable and inclusive development.

In that strategy, the sectoral dimension is crucial, because that is where company strategies, business models, and processes of capital formation and job creation are defined. Although the specific sectors should be defined in each national context, ECLAC proposes ten sectors or areas that are particularly promising: the energy transition, electromobility, the circular

economy, the bioeconomy, the healthcare-manufacturing industry, and the digital transformation—which are at the center of innovation processes—while the care economy, tourism, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and the social economy are great generators of employment, with the ensuing effects on income and the inclusion of disadvantaged social sectors.

Harnessing the potential in these areas entails transforming the region's development model to create favorable conditions for investment, growth, inclusion and sustainability.

Transformation of this model requires decisive action in multiple areas: development planning in order to coordinate policies; improvement in governance and the institutional quality of the institutions in charge of the different areas; macroeconomic policies to accelerate growth and tackle inflation; the construction of welfare states; strengthening care systems as a pillar of a rights-based social state; guaranteeing the rights of especially vulnerable populations; mitigation and adaptation vis-à-vis the environmental emergency; new governance of natural resources; implementation of industrial and technological policies; and regional integration in the face of the new geopolitics of globalization.

This is an ambitious agenda, but the reality is that this is not a time for gradual or tepid changes – ambitious and transformational changes are needed. Only

by boosting the level of ambition can we respond to this quantity of simultaneous challenges and shocks, and to the complexity of our region's economies and societies. In order to articulate the proposed strategies and policies, and to ensure their effective implementation and adjustments to new realities over time, new forms of experimentalist governance are needed, based on iterative and participatory processes for policy formulation and implementation. In some cases, new fiscal, productive, social and environmental compacts will be necessary to surmount the problems of this current juncture and move in the long term towards societies that are sustainable, cohesive and resilient – characteristics that entail advancing towards the realization of welfare states in the framework of more efficient and productive economies.

At this time of action for overcoming limitations and harnessing opportunities, ECLAC will present the analyses and proposals summarized in these lines at its most important biennial meeting: the thirty-ninth session, which will take place on October 24-26 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the participation of senior authorities from throughout our region. We invite all those who are committed to working for the progress of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the debates.

\*Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), of the United Nations.

## On Blacks Carrying the Cross

By MARIE-THERESE BELISLE  
NWEKE

The Tories have turned Britain, a fairly prosperous country before, into an international laughing-stock. They all deserve to go.

This is a comment from a British newspaper, *The Mirror*:

“While this paper will not mourn watching Liz Truss's premiership limp towards its inevitable end, it does mourn the damage she is doing -- she should be forced from Downing Street as quickly as possible.

“In the six weeks she has held office Truss has inflicted economic carnage that will leave people poorer and Treasury coffers depleted. For however long Liz Truss lasts she has already secured her place as one of the worst Prime Ministers in history.

“While this paper will not mourn watching her premiership limp towards its inevitable end, it does mourn the damage she is doing.

“We are all paying the price for her reckless economic gamble through higher mortgages and deeper cuts to public services.

“For that reason alone she should be forced from Downing Street as quickly as possible.

“Her economic strategy is in tatters. She no longer commands the confidence of her party and she has lost the trust of the public.

“If Kwasi Kwarteng has been made to carry the can for the calamitous mini-Budget then, as its main architect, so should she.

“But it is not just the leader who

must go.

“The Tories have turned a once prosperous and stable country into an international laughing stock. They all need to go.”

My Aside:

Why must Blacks always carry the cross? Think! Way back when Jesus was going to his death at Calvary, the Romans railroaded Simon of Cyrene, an African who was merely a visitor to Jerusalem, to carry Jesus's cross?

Who carried the cross to create empires and great wealth for European nations like Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Germany, and even little Belgium, as well as the Great USA? Black Africans, of course!

This time a son of Ghana, but born and bred in Britain, is carrying the cross or can, as it is now termed, for an economic policy, which BOTH he and Liz Truss designed and deeply espoused. Though rabidly ideological in theory, “trickle-down economics” or Reaganomics has never worked in practice anywhere. It was when Bill Clinton came along and raised taxes -- remember his campaign mantra to George Bush, Sr.: “It's the Economy, Stupid!” — that America truly prospered. As one wit termed it, Truss is espousing socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor.

As I see it, from David Cameron and his ill-advised Brexit gamble, right through to the ineffectual Theresa May and the pathological, terminological inexactitudes of Boris Johnson, to this Liz Truss, it's time to give the Conservatives a very, very long recess.

## Crime and punishment!

A couple of weeks ago, a report was issued by the United States Department of State which put Belize on a level 2 crime alert, along with France and Italy! Our neighbors to the west and south of us, Guatemala and Honduras and Salvador, were on a higher rung—level 4, I believe. The reasons cited were an increase in murders, sexual assaults and robberies in areas visited by tourists. Not good advertisement for a country that is struggling to survive after the effects of Covid, and worldwide inflation. It also cited poor and ill-equipped police and policing, and prosecution. These travel advisories can really change the economic fortunes of any country. This one really hurts because little Belize, a country known for its friendliness, its openness and its beauty, is being picked on, I feel, by Big Brother up north!

The last time I checked, there was a mass shooting in the United States almost everyday! Carjacking, rape and murder and mayhem, rampant in every large city! What level of travel advisory is being issued for New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami, Atlanta, and all the other communities racked by insane and unbelievable violence?! Who should issue a travel advisory for these locations? As the old saying goes, if you live in a glass house, you shouldn't throw stones. I do understand that it's for the protection of American citizens that travel abroad, but what about those who don't, who stay at home, and for the tourists who visit America? I haven't seen any such advisory.

I'm not saying that Belize should not

be called out; it should be. For a country this size, we are way above average in crimes committed every day, way above! After the lockdown from Covid, crimes have increased tenfold worldwide, so we are not the exception, just another casualty of this unfortunate phenomenon! I don't know what the Ministry of Home Affairs can do, but the judiciary and the police have to reform, and take a new tact on how crime and criminals are handled, in my opinion. I also understand that it's very hard for a budding country, with limited financial resources, to flood the streets with good policing, and the courts with enough prosecutors and judges to face, and deter, the violence that goes on, daily and unabated!

I guess it is a sign o' the times we are living in, that we cannot be insulated from what is ailing the world, considering all the roadblocks mentioned above, but I believe we have to start trying. I'm not blaming anyone for this explosion in crime, I'm just saying that we have to start trying to curtail criminal activities with enthusiasm and determination, and with the will it requires. We cannot prevent crime altogether, but we can try to make it more expensive, more scary, more punitive, for criminals who just act impulsively, with impunity, with no regard for the law! I won't go into the minutiae of why poor, desperate people commit more crimes, or about the inequality of the justice system; that's for another time. But there has to be a reckoning!

Glen

# Women leadership not only valid but important — NWC prez

by Khaila Gentle

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Oct. 14, 2022

One of the six pillars of the 2021-2023 National Women’s Policy and its accompanying action plan is Women in Power & Decision-Making. But according to the president of the National Women’s Commission, Thea Garcia Ramirez, as it stands, representation for women in politics and policy-making roles in the country are severely lacking.

The UN believes that women’s equal participation and leadership in political and public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Data has shown, however, that women worldwide are underrepresented at all levels of decision making. The UN has stated that, globally, “achieving gender parity in political life is far off.” Belize is no exception to this.

While the National Women’s Commission, as well as other



Belize’s women parliamentarians

organizations, is hoping to achieve that political parity someday, only 3 of the total 31 current parliamentarians in the House of Representatives are women, which the Commission’s president says is “dismal.” “Similarly, the rates at the village council

level and the municipal level are dismal. They do not align, and they don’t show any signs of improvement year in and year out, and the National Women’s Council does advocate that there be a quota system or that something be put in place to foster women leadership—to encourage women leadership—and that would include as well some kind of reform in the political process,” said Garcia.

A part of that political reform, she added, is the need for campaign finance legislation. It also includes, however, a greater show of support and advocacy from the public.

“Half of the population in Belize are women, yet we don’t see that women support candidacies of other women, and that, I think, also has to come from the

public because, at the end of the day the electorate is king. They decide. So they would need to also advocate,” she stated.

According to the NWC president, to improve representation in the area of women’s leadership, which is both valid and important, there needs to be “conscious and mindful inclusion” of women in the world of politics, including political financing and campaign, which would allow those without the resources or finances an equitable chance at running.

The 2021- 2023 National Women’s Policy focuses on six main pillars or areas of concern: gender-based violence, education, health, wealth & employment creation, women in power and decision-making, and organizational system strengthening.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Vacancy exists for a Chef to work at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Michelle Kwan.

Successful candidate will be required to obtain a security clearance and undergo a medical examination.

### BASIC FUNCTION OF THE CHEF POSITION:

Duties include but are not limited to planning, budgeting, shopping, preparing and presenting a variety of meal services for the residence and for events of 2 to 200 guests. With an understanding of nutritional balance and essential elements, the Chef’s repertoire must include a diverse and wide range of cooking styles and meal types, including appetizers for receptions, baked goods, desserts, and the ability to create vegetarian/vegan meals and cater to gluten sensitivities. The Chef will also be required to maintain expense records for each event or function, create menus, manage inventory, and assure the highest standards of safety, cleanliness, and proper food preparation and storage. The Chef is required to plan menus in advance and carry out the actual purchasing of supplies and ingredients necessary to produce the dishes reflected in the set menus. All responsibilities shall be completed on time, with integrity and honesty, and in a manner representing the highest U.S. standards of customer service.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- At least three years of culinary experience in a hotel/restaurant setting is required
- Associate Degree or completion of culinary/catering certificate program or in the absence of an Associate Degree, five years of culinary experience in a hotel or restaurant setting
- Must have a fluent command of reading, writing, and speaking English, and the ability to follow recipes and cooking instructions of varying complexity
- Must have initiative, good interpersonal skills and flexibility

**WHO MAY APPLY:** Applicants must be in possession of a Belize social security card valid for employment and/or a resident/work permit, and be eligible for appointment under Belize’s local laws.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application, current résumé, two references and all other applicable supporting documentation by email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov).

All applications must include in the subject line the position they are applying for (eg: **Employment Application for Chef position**). Incomplete applications will not be considered. For a complete copy of the position description listing all duties and responsibilities, please send an email to [BelmopanJobs@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanJobs@state.gov) or call at 822-4011, Ext. 4231. The deadline for submitting applications is **Sunday, October 30, 2022**.

## PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTIES

### SAN PEDRO TOWN AMBERGRIS CAYE, BELIZE

BY ORDER of the Chargee **CAYE INTERNATIONAL BANK LIMITED**, Licensed Auctioneer Robert Cadle JP will sell the following properties at the Bank’s location: Coconut Dr. San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.



REGISTRATION	SECTION	BLOCK	PARCELS
	San Pedro	7	5456,5457,5458,5459

Total of four vacant lots situated near North of the San Pedro Bridge, facing the lagoon area, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Parcel no. 5456 is 3,708.80 sq. ft. Parcel no. 5457 is 4,221 sq. ft. Parcel no. 5458 is 3,873.39 sq. ft. Parcel no. 4,420.58 sq. ft. **WILL BE AUCTION ALL TOGETHER.**

**TERMS: CASH ONLY**

**CALL: +501-601-1771**

**EMAIL: [silverstarbz@gmail.com](mailto:silverstarbz@gmail.com)**



# ¿¡Otro asesinato!?

## ¡Señor ayúdanos!

**“¡Llévame de regreso a mi antiguo hogar, Belize! ¡No hay un lugar tan hermoso!” – Sr. Wilfred Peters**

Lunes, 17 de octubre de 2022

¡Belize aún no está acabado! Todavía hay mucho amor en esta pequeña Joya; pero también hay mucho desamor y angustia, ya que cada semana hay informes de otro asesinato, o dos, o tres, cada uno con una historia desgarradora de seres queridos abrumados por la pena y el dolor. Y ha llegado al punto en que cada vez más ciudadanos claman frustrados por volver a aplicar la pena de muerte como algo que podría poner fin, o al menos reducir drásticamente, el número de ciudadanos productivos que se pierden a muertes violentas por la pistola o el machete. ¿Pero es esa la respuesta?

Nuestro sistema de justicia parece abrumado con la cantidad de casos nuevos que se acumulan, mientras los investigadores policiales y nuestros tribunales luchan para mantenerse al día con la plétora de delitos de todo tipo, especialmente delitos económicos como hurto, robo, allanamiento de morada, y otros delitos violentos tales como agresión común, daño, mutilación, etc. ya que todo el mundo parece estar nervioso. Luego están los asesinatos, algunos llevados a cabo durante robos violentos, mientras que otros han resultado de vendettas de venganza emocional, amor celoso, peleas de pandillas por territorio, víctimas atrapadas en un fuego cruzado o el aparentemente más común “golpe” relacionado con las drogas: una ejecución dirigida y a sangre fría por parte de un “pistolero” contratado que puede no tener ninguna relación personal con el individuo blanco. En general, se acepta que la tasa de condena por asesinato en Belize es inferior al 10 por ciento de los acusados. Nuestro Comisionado de Policía ha lamentado públicamente la futilidad de los esfuerzos policiales cuando críticos testigos oculares, de quienes a menudo depende un caso, se niegan a declarar ante el tribunal por temor a perder la vida después de recibir amenazas.

En este clima imperante de miedo y pavor en el que se ven obligados a vivir los ciudadanos, además de los muchos que aún lloran la pérdida de seres queridos, cada vez son más las personas que piden que se restablezca la pena de muerte, pero hay al menos dos factores importantes que a menudo son pasados por alto en esa línea de pensamiento.

En primer lugar, la pena de muerte como posible elemento disuasorio de los asesinatos solo puede serlo si el perpetrador es condenado, y esto puede volverse aún más difícil si la previsión de un posible ahorcamiento es real. Los testigos pueden ser aún más difíciles de conseguir. Y con abogados defensores bien educados e investigadores policiales a menudo ineptos o con exceso de trabajo, los posibles asesinos pueden seguir confiando en sus posibilidades de escapar de la condena y la horca.

En segundo lugar, y quizás más importante, a pesar de nuestros instintos, existe un fuerte argumento de que las experiencias pasadas sugieren poca correlación entre la tasa de homicidios y la aplicación de la pena de muerte. Es cierto que en los viejos tiempos coloniales en Belize, cuando la horca era la norma, los asesinatos eran pocos. Pero entonces, toda la sociedad era diferente. No había un 60 por ciento de pobreza coexistiendo con una riqueza obscena, donde el hambre es una realidad cotidiana para muchos, mientras ven a otros vivir el estilo de vida de los ricos y famosos. El crack de cocaína no había trastornado nuestra vida social, con víctimas esparcidas por todo el país; mientras que otros están efectivamente empleados en el tráfico ilegal de drogas y están “armados hasta los dientes” con armas letales para defender su “territorio”. Podemos mirar los números en lugares donde se ha aplicado la pena de muerte y no muestra el efecto que esperaríamos. Por ejemplo, Amnistía Internacional EE. UU. ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)) hizo un seguimiento de la tasa de homicidios en todos los estados de EE. UU. que practicaban la pena de muerte y en los que no la aplicaban. Y, curiosamente, la tasa de homicidios fluctuó entre el período de 1990 a 2010 casi de la misma manera en los dos conjuntos de estados; y de hecho, todos los años, los estados que practicaban la pena de muerte tenían una tasa de homicidios más alta que los estados que no la usaban. Según su informe, “una encuesta de criminólogos realizada en 2009 reveló que más del 88 % creía que la pena de muerte NO era disuasorio del asesinato”.

Entonces, a pesar de nuestras emociones y frustración con este terrible problema, es posible que estemos ladrando al árbol equivocado. Curtis Mayfield cantó una vez: “La gente es igual en todas partes. Tienen los mismos miedos, derraman lágrimas similares, mueren en tantos años”. Pero todo depende de las condiciones en las que vive la gente. El crimen y la pobreza parecen ir juntos en el gran esquema de las cosas. Y las caravanas de personas que huyen de Venezuela, Haití, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador e incluso México (nosotros en Belize tradicionalmente hemos tenido menos dificultades para acceder a los EE. UU.), son en su mayoría personas pobres que buscan una vida mejor, o gente no tan pobre que trata de escapar del crimen y la violencia generados por la pobreza y exacerbados por la “guerra contra las drogas” en sus países de origen.

Revisar la tasa de homicidios por cada 100.000 ciudadanos en la lista mundial en las últimas dos décadas del nuevo milenio es como separar a los que “tienen” de los que “no tienen”. Según [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), las cifras reportadas por la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC) muestran algunas tendencias reveladoras, aunque no siempre se puede verificar la precisión individual de las cifras informadas. Mientras que el promedio para todo el mundo (195 países examinados) fue de 6,1 asesinatos por cada 100.000 habitantes, Europa, Oceanía y Asia promediaron 3,0 o menos asesinatos por cada 100.000 de su población. Lo que efectivamente elevó la cifra promedio global fue la alta tasa de homicidios en África y las Américas, que en conjunto promediaron más de 15,0 homicidios por cada 100.000, que es cinco veces el promedio de Europa, Oceanía y Asia.

En esta época de discusión y debate sobre las “Reparaciones” por los daños sufridos por siglos de esclavitud y explotación, los efectos son bastante gráficos cuando se observan las cifras de homicidios en los países de las Américas que sufrieron la colonización europea seguida de la neocolonización por hermano mayor EE.UU.; y lo que todos tenían en común era la presencia de un número significativo de africanos e indígenas soportando siglos de explotación de su trabajo y recursos.

Mientras que EE. UU. actualmente envía miles de millones de dólares en armas para ayudar a los ucranianos a pelear su guerra con Rusia, los empobrecidos viajeros de caravanas centroamericanas y caribeñas se dirigen al norte para tratar de escapar del clima asesino de pobreza en casa y obtener un pedazo de “el pastel americano”. Pero en lugar de ayudar a construir las economías de estos países, EE. UU. sigue “derribándolos” con “embargos” y “sanciones”, a menudo interviniendo del lado de líderes títeres dictatoriales y explotadores, o enviando armas y municiones para luchar contra una guerra de drogas que termina matando cada vez a más pobres en estas naciones.

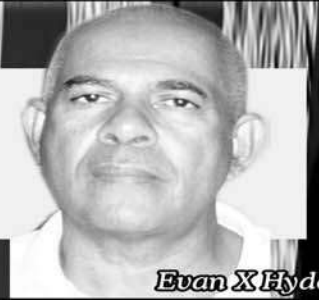
La escritora colaboradora Helen Clark en un artículo “George Schultz fue uno de los primeros en entender la política y la prohibición de las drogas” (en [thehill.com](http://thehill.com) con fecha 21/02/21), dijo que “Shultz, quien murió este mes a los 100 años, era secretario en la administración de Nixon en el momento del anuncio de la guerra contra las drogas en 1971”, y opinó que “los impactos de las políticas de drogas en el Hemisferio Occidental, apoyadas política, financiera y militarmente por los Estados Unidos, externalizaron la violencia, en efecto, a México y Guatemala y Honduras. Y antes, Colombia”. Y podemos incluir a Belize en esa lista. A modo de comparación, durante un período similar, [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com) tenía Canadá en 2,0 y EE. UU. en 6,3; mientras que México estaba en 28,4, Belize en 25,7, Guatemala en 22,5, Honduras en 36,3 y El Salvador en 37,2 asesinatos por cada 100.000.

El exsecretario de Estado de los EE. UU., George Schultz, abogó energicamente por el fin de la “guerra contra las drogas”, y eso podría ser lo que detendría esta terrible ola de violencia y asesinatos en nuestro alguna vez pacífico Belize. Sin embargo, la industria de fabricación de armas de Estados Unidos está haciendo buenos negocios; están “llenos de dinero en efectivo” de agentes de los mismos traficantes de drogas ilegales a los que está dirigida la llamada “guerra contra las drogas”.

Estamos en una situación difícil, beliceños; pero nuestros antepasados han pasado por siglos mucho peores. Saldremos de esto porque todavía tenemos el amor, y el amor lo conquista todo. Y recuerden, este sigue siendo nuestro “viejo hogar, Belize”; y “¡No hay un lugar tan fino!”



# From the Publisher



Evan X Hyde

A Belizean by the name of Clinton Gardiner passed last week at the age of 73. I write this column to give him maximum respect and express condolences to his family.

A quiet guy, relatively small, but very strong and principled, Clinton Gardiner was a student at St. John's College Sixth Form in September of 1969 when he and Charles X Stamp led the United Black Association for Development (UBAD) September 10 parade with a UBAD flag designed by the late Edgar X Richardson. (UBAD had been formed in February of 1969.)

Although I was UBAD president at the time, I really didn't know Clinton well. I heard that he was at SJC Sixth Form, and I wondered if he had ruined his future academic prospects by taking this bold step.

I lost track of Clinton after that. My sense was that he went away to study, married a Belize Technical College

student I knew by the name of Celia Moody (I believe), and pursued a public service career in the Lands and Surveys Department in Belmopan. At a certain point in his career, Clinton Gardiner became the Lands Commissioner of Belize. This is a prominent and powerful position.

On hearing of his promotion, I felt a personal pleasure at knowing he had been able to overcome the stigma of being the youthful 1969 UBAD parade flag bearer.

Decades went by, and a few years ago I ran into Clinton at the Kremandala compound, and we chatted. He pointed out to me that he had scored the goal for Lands and Surveys which defeated the UBAD team in a much hyped football game at the old BEC field, in 1971, I believe.

There are only a few older Belizeans who will be interested in this story, but much of my role today is as a roots community historian. In

1971, this was a big game amongst young Belize City males.

I don't believe Clinton Gardiner was considered a big star in the Lands and Surveys squad, whose superstars included Raymond Davis. Jim Myers was also on that team, but only he considered himself a star. (Smile.) Respect always, Jim.

Now here's how that game came about. There was a gregarious taxi driver whose street name was Chunga. He lived in the Harlem Square section of Belize City's Southside, and among the football players whom he organized for a bet game against the UBAD selection was the late Rupert "Canalete" Anderson, one of Belize's greatest goalkeepers ever.

I remember playfully threatening Rupert that I would score on him, but he took the threat seriously, which was somewhat surprising. So Rupert decided not to mind goal that day at BEC field: he "played out," as we

would say.

The reason for the hype in the game between UBAD and Harlem Square was because of the bet, which was a case of wine.

Harry Pilgrim, who was not known as a football player but was a star athlete, was on holiday from school at the University of the West Indies, and he played on the UBAD forward line that Sunday morning. Harry scored a goal in UBAD's 3-1 victory.

Well, the UBAD team was now challenged by a team from Yabra (called Psycho, I believe), which included the late "Ching," or "Manuel Wong." Ching scored the goal for Yabra which drew the game, 1-1.

This was what led to the UBAD clash with Lands and Surveys, because UBAD was undefeated, attracting challengers. On the day of that game, our lineup actually included the legendary, late Raymond "Toro" Alvarez. But Lands and Surveys beat us, 1-0. That was the end of the UBAD football experiment, and Clinton, the son of Joseph Gardiner and Cordelia Usher, and the nephew of George "Bolo" Gardiner, was proud to tell me that he was the one who scored to beat us.

The Gardiner family is a very famous family where sports is concerned. Keith Gardiner, who now lives in the United States, may be Belize's greatest natural athlete ever, but Gilbert "Chico" Ellis also has a claim to this title. In Dangriga, they will argue for Daniel "Don D" Lino, I am sure. (Keith and his brother, Charlie, won several football titles in the 1960s with Mr. Hoy's Landivar.)

In any case, it is a pity that no one has ever published researched material on the football career of one of George "Bolo" Gardiner's sons, who was the sweeper for the storied Guatemalan football team, CSD MUNICIPAL, during the 1990s, and earned five caps for that country. That is a story I would like to read.

Remember, during the presidency of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala between 1951 and 1954, there were several Belizean families who began living in Guatemala City, people from the Gardiner, Cattouse, Reyes families, of those I remember. Personally, I am totally intrigued. Remember that our greatest patriot, Hon. Philip Goldson, visited Guatemala during this time, was greatly impressed, and said so publicly, referring to his time in Guatemala as "seven days of freedom."

This column was supposed to be about Clinton Gardiner. That is how it will end. I mourn his death, celebrate his life, and extend the deepest of condolences to his family. This was a special brother. I honor him.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

Un beliceño de nombre Clinton Gardiner falleció la semana pasada a la edad de 73 años. Escribo esta columna para darle el máximo respeto y expresar las condolencias a su familia.

Clinton Gardiner, un tipo tranquilo, relativamente pequeño, pero muy fuerte y de principios, era estudiante en la preparatoria del Colegio San Juan (SJCJC por sus siglas en inglés) en septiembre de 1969 cuando él y Charles X Stamp encabezaron el desfile de la Asociación Negra Unida para el Desarrollo (UBAD por sus siglas en inglés) el 10 de septiembre con una Bandera UBAD diseñada por el finado Edgar X Richardson. (UBAD se formó en febrero de 1969).

Aunque yo era presidente de UBAD en ese momento, realmente no conocía bien a Clinton. Escuché que estaba en SJCJC y me preguntaba si había arruinado sus futuras perspectivas académicas al dar este paso audaz.

Perdí la pista de Clinton después de eso. Mi sensación fue que se fue a estudiar, se casó con una estudiante del Colegio Técnico de Belize que conocía por el nombre de Celia Moody (creo) y siguió una carrera de servicio público en el Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura en Belmopán. En cierto momento de su carrera, Clinton Gardiner se convirtió en Comisionado de Tierras de Belize. Esta es una posición prominente y poderosa.

Al enterarme de su ascenso, sentí un placer personal al saber que había

sido capaz de superar el estigma de ser el joven abanderado del desfile UBAD de 1969.

Pasaron las décadas y hace unos años me encontré con Clinton en el recinto de Kremandala y charlamos. Me señaló que él había marcado el gol del Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura que derrotó al equipo de UBAD en un partido de fútbol muy publicitado en el antiguo campo BEC, en 1971, creo.

Solo hay unos pocos beliceños mayores que estarán interesados en esta historia, pero gran parte de mi papel hoy es como historiador comunitario de la base. En 1971, este fue un gran juego entre jóvenes varones de la Ciudad de Belize.

No creo que Clinton Gardiner fuera considerado una gran estrella en el equipo del Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura, cuyas superestrellas incluían a Raymond Davis. Jim Myers también estaba en ese equipo, pero solo él se consideraba una estrella. (Una sonrisa.) Respeto siempre, Jim.

Ahora, así es como surgió ese juego. Había un taxista sociable cuyo apodo era Chunga. Vivía en la sección de Harlem Square de la Zona Sur de la Ciudad de Belize, y entre los jugadores de fútbol que organizó para un juego de apuestas contra la selección de UBAD estaba el finado Rupert "Canalete" Anderson, uno de los mejores porteros de Belize.

Recuerdo haber amenazado a Rupert en broma con que le anotaría, pero se tomó la amenaza en serio, lo

cual fue algo sorprendente. Así que a Rupert no le importó el gol de aquel día en el campo BEC: "se agotó", como diríamos.

El motivo del revuelo en el partido entre UBAD y Harlem Square fue por la apuesta, que era una caja de vino.

Harry Pilgrim, que no era conocido como jugador de fútbol pero era un atleta estrella, estaba de vacaciones de la escuela en la Universidad de las Indias Occidentales y jugó en la línea delantera de UBAD ese domingo por la mañana. Harry anotó un gol en la victoria de UBAD por 3-1.

Bueno, el equipo de UBAD ahora fue desafiado por un equipo de Yabra (llamado Psycho, creo), que incluía al finado "Ching" o "Manuel Wong". Ching anotó el gol de Yabra que empató el juego, 1-1.

Esto fue lo que llevó al choque de UBAD con el Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura, porque UBAD estaba invicto, atrayendo retadores. El día de ese partido, nuestra alineación incluía al legendario finado Raymond "Toro" Alvarez. Pero el Departamento de Tierras y Agrimensura nos ganó, 1-0. Ese fue el final del experimento futbolístico de UBAD, y Clinton, hijo de Joseph Gardiner y Cordelia Usher, y sobrino de George "Bolo" Gardiner, estaba orgulloso de decirme que él fue quien anotó para vencernos.

La familia Gardiner es una familia muy famosa en lo que a deporte se refiere. Keith Gardiner, que ahora vive

# Zepp-LaRouche: We're Close to Point of No Return



by Clinton Canul Luna

Permit me, our dear readers of this column, to present to you the below analysis which I find to be of utmost interest. The following, entitled "Zepp-LaRouche — We Are Close to Reaching a Point of No Return!", was posted by The LaRouche Organization on their YouTube page on October 11, 2022. It is as follows:

Good morning. I'm Harley Schlanger from the LaRouche Organization with your daily video update for October 11, 2022. In speaking with colleagues yesterday, Helga Zepp-LaRouche said we're close to reaching a point of no return. She said, quote, "I'm afraid we're already in World War III in a hybrid way..." unquote. She said that it's because we're not clear when red lines are crossed beyond repair and it is clear that red lines are being crossed. We're at a moment very similar to where we were 60 years ago over the Cuban Missile Crisis when John F. Kennedy reached out to the Soviet leadership, where back-channel negotiations took place and an exit strategy from the otherwise seemingly inevitable nuclear confrontation was found. That's what's necessary today, but what we're seeing instead is Western officials who are

fanning the flames.

For example, Western officials and Western media reacted with outrage over Russia's missile strikes in Ukraine yesterday, but these are the same officials and media who've been gloating over the destruction of the Nord Stream Pipelines, referring to that, as did Blinken, as a great opportunity for the West. They're the same ones who are gloating over the terror attack on the bridge across the carriage Strait which the Russians called terrorism. They're even continuing to pretend they don't know who's shelling the Zaporizhian nuclear power plant, when it's absolutely unmistakably clear that it's Ukraine that is putting the plant at risk, and now, we're seeing a spread of sabotage. Over the weekend, the northern German rail system was shut down by an act of sabotage, and we're seeing growing anti-war sentiment and growing anti-sanction sentiment throughout Europe, with demonstrations and expectation that these demonstrations will continue.

So, when you look at what the West is talking about with an exit strategy, what you find is they're saying that Putin must surrender, Russia must surrender, as though there were no security concerns that the Russians had

from the beginning. Now, there's increasing evidence emerging that shows that this whole war in Ukraine was the product of advanced planning by Western policy makers. The latest example of this is in the U.S newspaper *Politico* that reported on October 6<sup>th</sup> under the headline "Europe's American president", unquote, which was a puff piece on Ursula Von der Leyen, who's the president of the European Commission. The subhead was, quote, "Her top-down approach has endeared her to Washington but alienated colleagues in Brussels..." unquote. What's reported in this was her November 2021 visit to Washington at a time when Putin was appealing very intensely to the West, to what he called "Russia's Western partners," to seriously address Russia's security concerns with Eastward expansion of NATO and also the continued fighting by the Ukrainian military, including shelling of civilians in eastern Ukraine. It was during this period when she traveled to Washington where she had meetings with National Security adviser Jake Sullivan and Deputy National Security adviser Daleep Singh and joining her from the European Commission was her closest confidante, Bjoern Seibert. Now, this set up a series of follow-up meetings which included top U.S security officials, including at one point William Burns from the CIA for a series of meetings to plan out an aggressive sanctions regime against Russia. This was before any Russian motion or attack into Ukraine. The meetings were described by participants as having, quote, "A tremendous amount of convergence across the board..." unquote.

Now, this led to a whole series of sanctions, a whole series of escalated attacks on Russia, economic attacks, a seizure of property and threats to shut down the Nord Stream Pipeline. It got to the point that by the time she announced the sixth package of sanctions against Russia without any discussion with other European Union members, there was some political criticism, or I should say public criticism, that emerged. One of those who spoke out on this was her old mentor, Angela Merkel, who said to her, "don't forget to talk to us". In other words, don't just act on your own with your buddies from the U.S and NATO. Now, other examples of advanced planning, and where do you start? You could start with the 1990's broken promises of Eastward expansion or you could start with the Obama/Biden Administration role in the launching of the Maidan coup, the Color Revolution, the toppled, the democratically elected government of Ukraine and put in the puppet regime, but more recently you can go back to Biden's February statement where he said that the U.S will not allow the Nord Stream Pipeline to be opened. There's now documents leaked by The Gray Zone which report on an April 2022 discussion among

British intelligence officers of a plan to blow up the Kerch Strait Bridge. So, all of this was set in motion by meticulous planning, coordination, but done in secret by top officials, primarily of the United States and Britain.

So the question is, where is the exit ramp? And the one exit ramp that was there initially, which was the Russian-Ukraine negotiations, some of which were brokered by Turkey, others which were direct. These were sabotaged by NATO by sending Boris Johnson, the disgraced former prime minister of the United Kingdom, on April 9th to Kiev to tell Zelensky, (1). you can't negotiate with Putin and (2). the West wants this war to continue. And so, the promise of a negotiated settlement which would have included neutrality for Ukraine with security guarantees from Russia, as well as the idea that Ukraine will not join NATO and that the concerns of the people of the Eastern sections of Ukraine would be met; that was blown up, thrown away, not by Putin but by NATO and their puppet Zelensky. So, where does that leave us?

Well, there are other voices finally beginning to emerge for an exit strategy. One of those who spoke out was Gerhard Schröder, the former chancellor of Germany. Schröder, of course, has been attacked as a Putin puppet because he's opposed to this war, but among the things he said in an interview with the *Berliner Zeitung* is that the Eastward expansion of NATO was a mistake and shouldn't have continued. He's issued a call for a ceasefire and negotiations for quote, "... a lasting peace agreement and a stable peace architecture in Europe..." unquote. Well, that's virtually what Helga Zepp-LaRouche has been calling for. Now, there's some voices from the United States, and these are quite significant. One is the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S military, Admiral Mike Mullen, who in an interview on Sunday expressed concerns with Biden's language, that he's saying Biden is ramping up the confrontation, and he said instead there should be diplomacy to get Zelensky and Putin to negotiate an end to the war. Now, perhaps most significant was the late but nevertheless important comments by former president Donald Trump in a rally in Arizona where Trump said there must be immediate negotiations for a peaceful end of the war, otherwise, we will have World War III, which he said would be the most devastating event in human history because of the weapons that could be potentially involved. What he said is the war is escalating quote, "...because of people that don't have a clue..." unquote. I wonder who he was

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**A Collection of Ideas and Opinions 2007-2012**

**by C B Hyde**

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# Indeed, those children and youth are “exposed”

by Colin Hyde

Someone told me that in the business of illicit sex, the Chinese Belizeans are king. I don't think you need a calculator to figure out that someone on an undercover move will want to go where nobody knows their name. Aha, but as time goes by, as they become more familiar, Asia will lose its edge there.

Regarding this questionnaire, I can't find any points to support the identification factor, but I don't know how much, if any of the substance of it I am against, because I haven't had a sit-down look at it yet. The big story here, of course, is sex, and LGBT business, and the few questions in those veins that I saw were sensitive. So, teachers didn't supervise the test; they used MOE personnel. I say, while the MOE might have absolute trust in their people, and they might be absolutely professional, I'm not aware that they are recent *kom ya* Orientals.

There is no doubt that our children are very exposed. In the 1980s (or late 70s), Said Musa warned that television was like an invading army of 10,000. But, to a great extent, the book burners could limit what we saw on open air. With this laptop, an essential tool for education these days, a world most of us didn't enter until we reached full

adulthood is just a Google away from the fingers of an eight-year old.

This age we're living in, it's big on sexual liberation. Sex, it's like moths to a flame. Time was when a city boy saw two dogs going at it on the street, that was too much exposure. Hn, but the lives of kids in the rural world was different, those ones whose parents had farm animals. Bulls will fight to the death over a cow. Pigs are infernal animals. I am surprised Leviticus said we shouldn't eat them. He should have said, eat them, eat them until they disappear from the face of the earth. Fowls and roosters, roosters especially, don't give a damn what people think.

Dis ya time da noh like bifo time. So, the Education department and their friends from abroad are interested in finding out what thoughts are going around and maybe becoming fixed in the beautiful once innocent heads of our children and youth. To be graphic, how much of their day is invested in sex. I'm not with the identification factor. I'm yet to have a take on the questions.

## I hope it isn't that “dreads” guy

For starters, I'm not with the Qatar emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, satisfying some need to please

Putin one month before the World Cup. The story goes that Russia has shared its experiences presenting the 2018 World Cup, and nobody with any sense will be ungrateful for helpful information. But a whole lot of people question the need for such a public announcement, particularly at this time.

Hmm, quite a few countries weren't too happy with Qatar getting the games, and big among the reasons for the non-support was the temperature in that country in May/June, the months when the games are usually held. To fix that problem they pushed the games back, to November. Another negative for Qatar is that it has no football fame. But then, the US got it in 1994 and they had no fame in the great game either.

The disappointing news out of France is that the world's greatest star on the defense side of the ball, N'Golo Kante, has an injured hammy and he will not recover in time for the games. Pogba is on the mend from a bad knee, and there are hopes that the world's most intelligent player will be in uniform when the whistle blows, but we have to worry about his form. This misbehaving by Mbappé doesn't surprise me. It's a difficult chemistry to have three of the top ten strikers in the world —him, Messi and Neymar, playing in the PSG (Paris Saint-Germain F.C.) frontline at the same time. But I have an even bigger “understanding” of Mbappé's trouble... too much ma in his life.

Ha, ha, a *Daily Mail* story said his ma, Fayza Lamari, charged that her boy was a victim of a smear campaign. That ma doesn't surprise me at all. There's this old story that she took Mbappé to England when he had just become a youth, and things happened. To get the story right, I went to *Asianet Newsable*, where they had the full exposure. Mbappé had a tryout with Chelsea when he was 13, and when they asked to put him through a second workout, the ma said: “My son will not go back; either they sign him now, or within five years, they'll have to offer 50 million euros to tie him down.”

A later report said Ms. Lamari had demanded 180 million euros, and am I glad that the hated Chelsea balked. Just goes to show that even in bad there is good. Hmm, I don't think Ms. Lamari is as bad as MSNBC's Tiffany Cross, whose comments did very poorly for women in sports. Let me get something clear. I agree with Ms. Julianne about the potential of women, but no, not all the way. One of the things I'm really sorry about is that boxing thought it bright to encourage women to put on gloves. These things send a terrible message, maybe even explains a recent video we saw of a brother using his head in a lovers quarrel.

Ha, I read this story on Yahoo, by Martie Bowser (don't know if I should put a Mister or Miss before that one), that Miss Megyn Kelly, a white girl, called Miss Cross, a black girl, a “dumbass” for “blaming NFL injuries on racism.” Whoa, I'll get through this one quickly so I can vent about that boy with the braids. Cross's comment was sparked by the controversial handling of a star non-white player who

had suffered a head injury.

The report said Cross suggested that there was a “disregard” for Black lives in sports leagues. She said: “To see all these Black men crashing into each other with a bunch of white owners, white coaches, and the complete disregard for Black bodies and Black life. I mean, it just represents a larger issue.”

I see in Ms. Cross's bio that she is Nigerian-American, and all I can think of here is that she is pandering to a segment of Black America that is chasing behind a gentleman named Colin Kaepernick who has a big heart but is not too smart. Dear Lady Cross, how come you missed the salaries these Black bodies are getting to crash into each other? I join the world in grieving for 41 men in Turkey who died in a coal mine hundreds of meters underground. Please, the last I heard thousands are lining up to be chosen to get in on the football game.

I caught a Nations' Cup game between France and Denmark a couple weeks ago, about ten minutes in, and before I could check out all the players in the France lineup, I saw a dreads fellow, his locks bobbing up and down, in the midfield. The moment I saw him I knew France would lose. Whoever in the banks doesn't want me to get a credit card is against me getting rich. I would have cleaned the house if I could have joined the betting line on that game.

Denmark is playing well. Respect to them for their 2-0 victory over *Les Bleus*. Yaa, looks like France will be short in the midfield if the World Cup goes through, and I'm hoping our manager has seen enough of the “dreads”. Long hair doesn't belong in football. The moment you see one you know he isn't 100% focused on the battle in the trenches.

There is always an exception. The only dreads player that forgot his looks when he stepped on the field was that terrible Didier Drogba. Don't look at Pogba and all his crazy hair concoctions. That man's an artist, a super artist playing football. Do you know who has the most brutal penalty miss in World Cup history? It's a guy named Roberto Baggio. That brother was a brilliant player. But he had a pony tail. I know whom I'll bet on in the crunch.

## Ladyville resident charged for Hopkins murder

**Jahiem Joseph, 20, a resident of Ladyville, Belize District, has been charged with murder for fatally stabbing Norman Castillo, 45, a laborer of Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District, in his yard.**



Norman Castillo, deceased



Jahiem Joseph, charged with murder

by Charles Gladden

HOPKINS, Stann Creek District, Mon, Oct. 17, 2022

Jahiem Joseph, 20, a resident of Ladyville, Belize District, has been charged with murder in connection with the fatal stabbing of Norman Castillo, 45, a laborer of Hopkins Village, Stann Creek, during an altercation in Castillo's yard on Friday, September 30.

Castillo and his wife had been socializing together along with relatives in their yard on the south side of

Hopkins Village just after 10:00 p.m. when a group of men passed the yard, and for an unknown reason, an argument arose between Castillo and the men, which led to a physical altercation, during which Castillo was fatally stabbed twice in the left side of the chest.

He was later taken to the Southern Regional Hospital, where he passed away from his injuries.

On Friday, October 14, police formally arrested and charged Joseph with the crime of murder.

## COMPOL goes to New Delhi

Continued from Page 4

of policing; policing today's crimes, which include financial crime; anti-corruption, cybercrime, crime against children, and the I-Familia database that features the use of family DNA matching to identify missing persons.

Also, documents providing an overview of the main crime threats in the world will be issued and elections will be held to fill two vacant posts on the executive committee: the vice president for Europe, and the delegate for Africa.

## Man's fingers severed during fight in Scotland Halfmoon

by Charles Gladden

SCOTLAND HALFMOON, Belize District. Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

A man who was in an altercation that involved three persons of Hispanic descent in Scotland Halfmoon in the Belize District suffered a range of face and body injuries—including the severance of two of his fingers, and he is currently in critical but stable condition at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital. The incident occurred on Saturday, October 15.

According to the Communications Director of the Belize Police Department, ASP Fitzroy Yearwood, shortly before 4:00 p.m. that day, Arana got into an argument with one of his assailants, and when the argument intensified, two other men pulled out their machetes and proceeded to chop Arana.

Following the incident, the men fled the scene in Arana's pickup truck, which was recovered by police, and shortly after, one of the assailants was captured by police, while the other two were captured in the vicinity of Krooman Lagoon area of Belize City.

Arana's two severed fingers were later found at the corner of a bus shed



ASP Fitzroy Yearwood,  
Communications Director, Belize  
Police Department

at the junction of Texas Road within the village.

ASP Yearwood told reporters that Arana's assailants reside in Belize City and are believed to be members of the MS-13 gang.

The trio has been detained in connection with the chopping incident.

Police have formally arrested and charged Florentino Ruiz, 33, of Antelope Street Extension in Belize City, with attempted murder, use of deadly means of harm, and taking conveyance without lawful authority.

## Woman charged for knocking down man on Central American Blvd.

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

Mirna Rivera, 27, a Ladyville resident, appeared in the Belize City Magistrate Court where she faced several criminal charges for allegedly knocking down Joseph Bevans, Sr., on Central American Boulevard on April 30.

Rivera was charged with one count of manslaughter by negligence, one count of causing death by careless

conduct, and one count of driving a motor vehicle without due care and attention. She did not enter a plea, as the offenses for which she was charged are indictable.

She was offered bail of \$5,000 plus one surety of the same amount, which she was able to meet.

Rivera is expected to return to court on December 28, when she will receive a date for her preliminary inquiry. If Rivera has a case to answer, it will be heard in the Supreme Court.

## Zepp-LaRouche: We're Close to Point of No Return

Continued from Page 10

speaking about. Not just Biden but the whole Western establishment which is fully committed to this war to destroy Russia because of the failure of the western system and its so-called rules-based order, which is being rejected by a growing number of nations because it doesn't work, because it defends the interests of the global corporate cartels over and above the interests of sovereign nation states.

That's what this war has been about from the beginning. Now, other voices from the United States were heard at the October 6 Schiller Institute Conference, "We will not be silenced", as a number of people including former diplomats, intelligence officials, political candidates and activists spoke out against The Blacklist that was created to attempt to

intimidate and silence people in the West. Yet, as you can see, if you go to the Schiller Institute website, people weren't silenced, people are speaking out, and we're now at a turning point where if enough people speak out, if enough people get involved, demanding a negotiated end of this with security guarantees for all and a new security and financial architecture, we can get out of this crisis and achieve not just a stable peace but a period of economic development for all of mankind. I would urge you to register for the international youth conference that will take place this Saturday October 15th at 10 a.m. Eastern time. It's not just for young people, although, we intend to have a significant representation of young people, but it's for anyone who wishes to participate in the discussion process that should have been underway going

## FROM THE PUBLISHER en Español

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en los Estados Unidos, puede ser el mejor atleta natural de Belize, pero Gilbert "Chico" Ellis también tiene derecho a este título. En Dangriga argumentarán por Daniel "Don D" Lino, estoy seguro. (Keith y su hermano, Charlie, ganaron varios títulos de fútbol en la década de 1960 con Landivar del Sr. Hoy).

En cualquier caso, es una lástima que nunca nadie haya publicado material investigado sobre la carrera futbolística de uno de los hijos de George "Bolo" Gardiner, quien fue el líbero del historiado equipo de fútbol de Guatemala, CSD MUNICIPAL, durante la década de 1990, y ganó cinco gorras para ese país. Esa es una historia que me gustaría leer.

Recuerden, durante la presidencia de Jacobo Arbenz en Guatemala entre 1951 y 1954, hubo varias familias beliceñas que comenzaron a vivir en la Ciudad de Guatemala, gente de las familias Gardiner, Cattouse, Reyes, de las que recuerdo. Personalmente, estoy totalmente intrigado. Recuerden que nuestro mayor patriota, el Honorable Philip Goldson, visitó Guatemala durante este tiempo, quedó muy impresionado y lo dijo públicamente, refiriéndose a su tiempo en Guatemala como "siete días de libertad".

Se suponía que esta columna era sobre Clinton Gardiner. Así terminará. Lamento su muerte, celebro su vida y extiendo el más sentido pésame a su familia. Este era un hermano especial. Lo honro.

## Brake failure causes collision...

Continued from Page 1

been at odds with the Ministry of Transport for some time now, as the current administration continues to push for the modernization of the country's transport industry. In a social media post made shortly after Saturday's accident, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson reiterated his stance on regulating the country's buses.

He said, "As we are cracking down, the operators might feel we are against them. This is the eventuality. That's why we will implement an inspection station and other measures at [the] Department of Transport."

In speaking further about the matter in an interview on Monday, he revealed that inspection stations can be expected to be established across the country

within the next three months. He also said that, he believes, after the incident on Saturday, most Belizeans now recognize that the plan to transform the transport sector must be made a reality sooner rather than later.

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson has stated that he wants to see the transformation of the industry begin as early as December of this year. That includes the improvement of the state of the nation's buses. In the long term, Ferguson says Belizeans can hope to see improvements to the bus terminals as well as the possible implementation of a policy that will prevent outdated buses from being on the road.

"We can't be forcing the operators to upgrade their buses, and then the terminal is inadequate," he added.

## PC Arzu succumbs...

Continued from Page 1

extended his heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of PC Arzu.

"Our colleagues have been trying their best to put together the circumstances surrounding her death," he said.

The shooting incident that eventually claimed the life of the 27-year-old police constable allegedly took place after an argument between two men, one of whom was 44-year-old Leonel Rowland, who was with Arzu at the time. Arzu and Rowland were sitting in a truck near Arzu's home on Bishop Martin Street when an unknown gunman opened fire. Rowland, who was also injured during the shooting, received three gunshot wounds.

Last week, Commissioner of Police Chester Williams pointed out that, by all indications, Rowland had been the

gunman's target and that there had reportedly been an exchange of words between the two men. He did note, however, that Rowland disputed having had any altercation with the suspect.

Rowland, at the time of the writing of this article, is still hospitalized in a stable condition. Police are waiting for him to be cleared by doctors so that they can question him further. According to ASP Yearwood, the police have since received numerous pieces of information in relation to what may have transpired during that incident and continue to investigate.

A statement from the Belize Police Department on the passing of PC Arzu reads, "You have left us suddenly sister, but your dedication to the Government of Belize, the Belize Police Department, and the people of Belize will never be forgotten. Sleep on Lorry, until we meet again. R.I.P."

stable peace if the people participate. Thanks for joining me. See you again tomorrow.

[fincasolan@gmail.com](mailto:fincasolan@gmail.com)

October 15, 2022

Finca Solana  
Corozal Town



# SSBA teams jostle for playoff positions with 1 week remaining in regular season

by Demi Awe

## STANDINGS

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Sun. Oct. 16, 2022

The San Ignacio & Santa Elena Basketball Association (SSBA) hosted 9 games over the weekend at the Resilience Center at Victor Galvez Stadium in San Ignacio Town. Below are the scores from the games played this past weekend.

### Friday, October 14

(Under 7 – Male) Mambas, 23-9, over Joseph Freights/RGM Trading. Mambas – Zane Laurence 16 pts, Shanelly Guzman 5 pts, and Jayeen Cho 2 pts. Joseph Freights/RBM Trading – Liam Salazar 5 pts, and Jordan Quewell and Shawn Cathers 2 pts each.

(Under 10 – Coed) Codd’s Drug Store, 14-6, over CK Restaurant. Codd’s Drug Store – Ethan Cesena and Akializ Williams 6 pts each, and Jonathan Requena 2 pts. CK Restaurant – Alcee Westby 4 pts, and Ezio Medina 2 pts.

(Under 15 – Female) Royal International, 10-4, over San Ignacio Hotel. Royal International – Zephaniah Santiago 10 pts. San Ignacio Hotel – Jenayah August and Trevelle Lennen 2 pts each.

(Seniors – Male) Venom, 74-39, over Nexgen Ballers. Venom – Joel Montejo 17 pts, Elvert Ariola 12 pts, and Neville Martinez 10 pts. Nexgen Ballers – Owen Kuylen 10 pts, and Karl Williams and Shawn Menzies 9 pts each.

### Saturday, October 15

(Seniors – Female) Ixchel, 37-29, over Western Queens. Ixchel – Dania Calderon 10 pts, Mabel Rodriguez 9 pts, and Amanda Sarcena 8 pts. Western Queens – Taryin Arnold 16 pts, Bria Clarke 5 pts, and Jeneve Reynolds 4 pts.

(Under 15 – Male) Tyre Center, 18-7, over Tollacca Restaurant. Tyre Center – Sheheen Urbina and Jadan Laurence 7 pts each, and Yannik Westby 4 pts.

(Seniors – Female) Ixchel, 43-41, over Vegan Roots Sisterhood. Ixchel – Dania Calderon 23 pts, Mabel Rodriguez 7 pts, and Jesika Prom 4 pts. Vegan Roots Sisterhood – Jane Martinez 24 pts, Isisita Kwatamani 12 pts, and Kerrie Montero 4 pts.

(Under 18 – Male) JDB, 39-32, over Joehann Construction. JDB – Kishawn Usher 14 pts, Jaheem Arnold 6 pts, and Zion Frazer 5 pts. Joehann Construction – Kenroy Nunez 12 pts, and Rowhan Romero and Edison Jackson 6 pts each.

(Seniors – Male) Vegan Roots Brotherhood, 62-41, over Alphas. Vegan Roots Brotherhood – Devon Defour 20 pts, Tasi-I Manra Kwatamani 17 pts, and Zokraai Kwatamani 8 pts. Alphas – Marcus Lewis 21 pts, Shane Gillett 10 pts, and Mohammed Garcia 4 pts.

All teams will advance to the playoffs, where the U7, U10, U12, U15 and U18 divisions will use the one-and-out format, while the senior males and females will play best-of-three series.

Below are the standings with 1 weekend remaining.

# PLB playoff race hot at Week 12; big mid-week back matches

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Oct. 17, 2022

The race to the Top-4 playoffs of the Premier League of Belize (PLB) 2022-2023 Opening Season is heating up. There are only 2 regular season weeks remaining along with 3 back matches that are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week. So, as Week 13 approaches this weekend, the playoff race could look even more interesting.

Week 12 had three games on Saturday night, October 15, and the other on Sunday afternoon, October 16.

### Saturday, October 15

At the M.A. Stadium in Independence, home standing and league leading Altitude FC gained a 2-1 victory over Wagiya FC. It was 1-1 at the half after Delone Torres (37’) had put Altitude in front and Clayton Fitzgibbon (42’) had equalized for Wagiya. League leading goal scorer Andres Orozco (62’) then sealed the 2-1 win for Altitude.

Meanwhile, at the Isidoro Beaton Stadium in Belmopan, last place Bandits SC held on for a 3-2 victory over Police/Benque United FC. Shaking the net for Bandits were Yilmar Renteria (26’) and Jalen Myers (49’ & 61’); while Benque got a goal from Devon Makin (69’) along with an own goal by Benque’s Yilmar Renteria (52’ O.G.). The two goals by Myers were noteworthy, one a spectacular right-footed free kick over the wall and into the top left corner, and the other a left foot rocket after cutting inside to his left following a run on the right side. This kid from Roaring Creek is worth watching.

UNDER 7 - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Shabla Events	4	2	2	6	1
Obs OJ	4	2	2	6	2
UNDER 7 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Joseph Freights/RGM Trading	3	2	2	6	1
Mambas	3	2	2	6	2
UNDER 10 - COED	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Habet Service Station	3	3	0	6	1
Caracara Reserve	3	2	1	5	2
Codd's Drug Store	3	2	1	5	3
CK Restaurant	3	0	3	3	4
Eskimo Ice	2	0	2	2	5
UNDER 12 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Q & M Construction	3	2	1	5	1
KG Equine Supplies & Oye FM	3	1	2	4	2
UNDER 15 - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Royal International	3	3	0	6	1
San Ignacio Hotel	3	0	3	3	2
UNDER 15 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Yute Expeditions	4	3	1	7	2
Tyre Center	4	2	2	6	3
Tolacca Restaurant	4	1	3	5	1
UNDER 18 - MALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Joehann Construction	5	4	1	9	2
JDB	5	2	3	7	3
Atlantic Bank	4	2	2	6	1
Recino's Imports	4	1	3	5	4
SENIORS - FEMALE	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Ixchel	4	3	1	7	1
Western Queens	3	1	2	4	2
Vegan Roots Sisterhood	3	1	2	4	3
SENIORS - MALE [Group 1]	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Assassins	3	3	0	6	1
West Side	3	2	1	5	2
Vegan Roots Brotherhood	3	1	2	4	3
Alphas	3	0	3	3	4
SENIORS - MALE [Group 2]	Games Played	Won	Loss	Total Points	Rank
Nextgen Ballers	4	2	2	6	1
Venom	3	2	1	5	3
NBB Pay Elites	3	1	2	4	2

## PLAYOFF SCENARIOS

**U7 Male & U7 Female** – all regular season have been played. Teams will play 1 championship game.

**U10 – Coed** – the winner this Friday between Habet Service Station and Codd’s Drug Store will secure the #1 and a bye to the semi-finals.

**U12 Male** – all regular season have been played. Teams will play 1 championship game.

**U15 Female** – all regular season have been played. Teams will play 1 championship game.

**U15 Male** – all regular season have been played. Teams will play 1 championship game. Yute Expeditions has the #1 seed and will advance to the finals, while Tyre Center and Tolacca Restaurant will play 1 game to see who advances to the finals.

**U18 Male** – Joehann Construction has secured the #1 seed. If Atlantic Bank beats Recino’s Imports on Friday, Recino’s Imports will be the #4 seed.

**Female - Open** – Ixchel has secured the #1 seed. Western Queens and Vegan Roots Sisterhood will play in a best-of-three series and the winner will advance to the finals vs Ixchel.

**Male – Seniors (Group 1)** – If Assassins defeat West Side on Friday night, they will be the #1 seed. West Side needs to win by more than 23 points to secure the #1 seed and a bye to the semi-finals. Vegan Roots Brotherhood and Alphas will be in a 1 game elimination to see who advances to play the #2 seed in a best-of-three series.

**Male – Seniors (Group 2)** – A win by Venom will give them the #1 seed and a bye to the semi-finals. A loss by Venom will leave all three teams with a 2 – 2 record, where seeding



## PLB playoff race hot...

**Continued from** Page 13

The other Saturday night game was at Ambergris Stadium, where San Pedro Pirates FC gave a real scare to defending champions Verdes FC who were a minute away from suffering their second defeat of the season. Mario Chimal (7') gave the Pirates a 1-nil first half lead, and Horace Avila (57') made it 2-nil Pirates; but Mexican Edwin Bernal (72') cut the lead in half, and near the end of regulation Krisean Lopez (89') got the equalizer for Verdes to make it a 2-2 final score.

Sunday, October 16

Up north at the People's Stadium (not Louisiana Field as we had erroneously indicated in our last Friday issue), young Progresso FC kept their playoff hopes alive with a 1-0 win over Port Layola FC from Belize City. After a scoreless first half, Marlon Gutierrez (63') scored the only goal of the match for Progresso.

Premier League of Belize 2022-2023 Opening Season								
Standings at Week 12, Sunday, October 16, 2022								
TEAMS	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Altitude FC	11	8	1	2	19	9	10	25
Verdes FC	12	5	6	1	18	9	9	21
San Pedro Pirates FC	11	6	3	2	18	10	8	21
Progresso FC	11	4	3	4	10	10	0	15
Wagiya SC	11	4	2	5	14	16	-2	14
Benque Viejo FC	11	3	2	6	11	16	-5	11
Port Layola FC	11	3	1	7	10	18	-8	10
Bandits SC	12	2	2	8	11	23	-12	8
(3 back matches remain to be played.)								

With 3 back matches scheduled this mid-week, the standings picture could change significantly going into the weekend's Week 13 matches.

### BACK MATCHES MID-WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 19

7:30 p.m. – (Wk. 11) Benque FC vs Progresso FC – Marshalleck Stadium

7:30 p.m. – (Wk. 9) Altitude FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

Thursday, October 20

7:30 p.m. – (Wk. 11) Wagiya SC vs Port Layola FC – M.A. Stadium in Independence

Week 13 weekend schedule:

Saturday, October 22

7:30 p.m. – Benque FC vs San Pedro Pirates FC – Marshalleck Stadium

Sunday, October 23

3:30 p.m. – Progresso FC vs Altitude FC – People's Stadium

3:45 p.m. – Verdes FC vs Wagiya SC – FFB Stadium

4:00 p.m. – Port Layola FC vs Bandits SC – MCC Grounds

## SSBA teams jostle for playoff...

**Continued from** Page 13

would then be decided by points differential. The #2 and #3 seeds will play in a best-of-three series to see who advances to the semi-final round.

Below is the upcoming schedule for this weekend:

Friday, October 21

6:30 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Eskimo Ice vs CK Restaurant

7:00 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Codd's Drug Store vs Habet Service Station

7:30 p.m. - (Under 12 - Male) Q&M Construction vs KG Equine & Oye FM

8:00 p.m. (Under 18 - Male) Atlantic Bank vs Recino's Imports

Saturday, October 22

6:30 p.m. - (Under 10 - Coed) Eskimo Ice vs Caracara

7:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Female) Vegan Roots Sisterhood vs Western Queens

8:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Alphas vs Vegan Roots Brotherhood

9:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) West Side vs Assassins

10:00 p.m. - (Seniors - Male) Venom vs NBB Pay Elites

On Sunday, Academia Flores, from Flores, Peten will be bringing teams from Guatemala to play teams that are presently participating in our SSBA Tournament. Below is the schedule of games.

Sunday, October 23

8:30 a.m. - Under 7 – Female

9:00 a.m. - Under 7 – Male

9:30 a.m. - Under 10 – Coed

10:00 a.m. - Under 12 – Male

10:30 a.m. - Under 15 – Females

11:30 a.m. – (Under 15 – Male) Assassins Jr. vs Flores

12:30 p.m. – (Female – Open) Western Queens vs Flores

1:30 p.m. – (Male – Open) Assassins vs Venom

3:00 p.m. – (Under 18 – Male) Mambas vs Flores

4:00 p.m. – (Male – Open) Winner of Assassins/Venom vs Flores

## 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment ...

**Continued from** Page 1

one primary concern: the inadequate budgetary allocation for that arm of government. A division of the votes was called on the twelfth amendment, with 24 members from the government side of the House voting yes, the 2 Opposition members who were present voting no, and the absence of 5 House members being recorded.

The Senior Courts Bill will lay the groundwork for the replacement of the Supreme Court of Belize with a new High Court, which along with the Court of Appeal, will be part of a Senior Court system in Belize. The role of the Chief Justice, currently Madam Justice Louise Blenman, will also become elevated — with the person holding that position presiding over both the criminal and civil divisions of both the Court of Appeal and the High Court.

She will be aided by the President of the Court of Appeal, two senior judges in both the civil and criminal divisions, and judges with specializations in order to expedite those highly technical cases. New roles such as Master of Courts will also be established in both divisions to further facilitate the operations within the new system.

During the recent opening of a new year for the Supreme Court, the issue of an inadequate budgetary allocation to finance the operations of the court was highlighted — just as it was in previous years. The Leader of the Opposition, Moses “Shyne” Barrow, thus expressed doubts in the House that the judiciary transformation outlined in the new legislation will come to fruition with the current sparse funding available for the judiciary.

“This government has not taken seriously its promise to properly fund the judiciary. It was a part of their Plan Belize and they have not delivered on it. So to understand what this reconfiguration means – it’s not as simple as having the now Chief Justice oversee all of the other courts – it costs. This has more of a demand on spending than our current configuration, and if we cannot properly finance our judiciary as it stands, how can we undertake to reconfigure where it will cost more than we are currently spending?” Barrow explained.

But the Prime Minister, John Briceno, in his remarks said that a supplementary appropriation may very well be proposed to fund these upgrades within the judiciary.

“Now, we may have to come in the months to come to this National Assembly to ask for a supplementary budget for the judiciary, and then I hope members from Mesopotamia and from

Corozal North would get up and support it. Or if we can't do it by then, certainly at the next national budget we are going to make more funding available for them. Will it be enough? Probably not, but we are going to start,” Briceno said.

Recently, the US Embassy donated approximately half a million dollars in equipment to the courts. This will allow for the further digitalization of the judiciary at various levels.

The Prime Minister, in his comments in the House, said that in just under a year 42% of the backlog in cases has been cleared with the help of the new judges who have been appointed in the Supreme Court.

“That’s 40,000 cases that we took care of in one year,” he noted.

Minister Kareem Musa highlighted in detail some of the changes being made to increase the efficiency of the judiciary under this amendment, and also mentioned changes being made in divorce proceedings.

“There are also other matters that are addressed in this Senior Courts Bill that are worth pointing out, and that is the removal, when it comes to divorce cases, the removal of continuous fault grounds. We know that under the current system, there is the fault ground basis for divorce, whether it is adultery, or desertion, or cruelty — we’re removing that, because what we find many times is that children are affected in these relationships that end in very bitter divorces.” Musa said.

Minister of Education, Francis Fonseca, who moved the reading of the bill, said that this new legislation was drafted following widespread consultation with stakeholders. The Ministry of the Attorney General, led by Minister Magali Marin, carried out the consultation and drafting of the new legislation.

He shared that the legislation represents the planned framework for the transformation of the courts in Belize.

“The bill is all about putting in place a plan, putting in place a structure for the efficient, effective administration of justice in Belize. You have to start with a plan, you have to start with a structure, and that is what the Senior Courts Bill achieves. It creates that structure; it creates the plan for the efficient, effective administration of justice in Belize,” Fonseca said.

He agreed that more funds have to be allocated to the judiciary, noting that the judiciary is and has been underfunded for many years.

Both the twelfth amendment and Senior Court Bill were read a third time.

Further amendments to the bill, which has already been circulated to the members, will soon be moved, Minister Fonseca said in his introduction.

## People's Constitutional...

**Continued from** Page 1

Commission was officially passed into law after having been read for the third time in the House of Representatives. According to the Minister of Constitutional Reform, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, the legislation will pave the way for the formation of a body to guide the drafting of a new Constitution that will enable fuller participatory democracy in Belize.

That body will be engaged in widespread consultation in order to draft a new and modern Constitution for Belize. The bill was first read and debated in July, and today, during the sitting of the House, the legislation was read a third time. According to Minister Usher, the work of the commission will start as soon as possible.

**Please turn to** Page 15

## FIU's application to seize 3.1 million is flawed, says Barrow

Continued from Page 1

granted, they will investigate whether or not the funds are proceeds of crime, money laundering activities, or tax evasion—an allegation made by the FIU's attorney, Janelle Thomas-Shorter, during Friday's court hearing.

The attorney representing the company, former prime minister Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow, on the other hand, says that the allegations of money laundering etc. were made subsequent to the original allegations made about the company, and are aimed at shoring up the application brought by the FIU. More importantly, he pointed out that a sort of procedural error took place in the filing of the application, saying that the application to seize the money should have been brought by the police officer who discovered the money, and not the FIU.

"It is the police officer that seized the money that can then move for its detention. The magistrate seems to have become confused," Barrow said during an interview following the afternoon court session.

According to him, the Money Laundering Act stipulates that it is the officers involved in the raid during which the money was discovered that are authorized to detain the money, and since the money was not seized by any of the police officers connected with the FIU, the application was brought by the wrong law enforcement agency. He thus disagreed with the sitting magistrate's interpretation, which places all the law enforcement officials, including the FIU, in one overall category.

Section 38 (1) of the Money Laundering Act 2016 lists police and customs officers as having the authority to detain suspicious funds.

"How the FIU gets into it when you look at the language in the appropriate section of the Money Laundering Act absolutely defeats me. It can't be that because policemen are attached to the FIU, even though the police officers attached to the FIU were not the ones that carried out the search and seizure, that simply because they have policemen attached to them, they can be the ones to move the application for the continued detention of what was seized not by them but by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit," Barrow argued.

That is his case, that the whole application is misconceived and brought wrongly before the courts. He said that the FIU has the authority under its own act to do search and seizures, but this search, he argued, was headed by Inspector Gian Young, a member of the Police Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit, and as such, it was Young who should have brought the application to detain the money and not the FIU.

"It is Inspector Young, or the police legal officers acting on Inspector Young's behalf that ought to be moving this application. That is certainly a basis on which depending on how this thing shapes out we are going to go the Supreme Court," he outlined.

He made two primary objections during his submission that were not accepted by the Magistrate during Friday's proceeding. According to him, they may very well appeal, since, if the

funds are withheld for an extended time, the company may possibly go out of business because of not having funds to pay its employees and cover other operational expenses.

According to Barrow, a person from the company told the officers during the search that the travel documents of the Chinese nationals were held in the safe along with the money for "safekeeping". He argued that there is nothing to suggest that the documents were held contrary to the wishes of the owners of the documents, and said that they are technical personnel hired to oversee the installation of machinery at the factory and that they are living at the Carmelita facility.

"Some of these people came here as engineers from a sister company," Barrow said, "They are strangers to Belize. You can understand they don't want to be moving about with their passports. They live at on the compound, and so it is perfectly logical, natural that they should say, let us keep our documents in a safe place," Barrow said.

Following the raid, eight of the persons found were charged with violations of their visitors' permits—with the manager of the factory being charged with 8 counts of employing persons without the requisite work permits. This matter is before the court as well and is being handled by the company's other attorney, but no charges have been brought against the company yet in connection with any allegations of criminal activity involving the funds that were found at the factory.

The FIU has attempted to link the funds detained to criminal activity by the company—in particular, human trafficking, money laundering, and tax evasion. Barrow said such allegations, so far unsubstantiated, will likely affect the business's reputation and may lead to a lawsuit against the authorities for a "ton load of damages."

"While the FIU has added these grounds as an additional basis for wanting to hold on to the money, there is no evidence at all that has been produced to suggest that there is any merit in those grounds," Barrow noted, adding that just the making of the application does harm to the reputation and business efficacy of the company.

He further pointed out that if the money continues to be withheld, the brewery will have to close its operations, and even if it is returned, there will be a contraction in their business activity due to the reputational damage brought on by this claim.

Barrow went on to say that if his argument that the application was brought wrongly by the law enforcement agency is vindicated, there would be confirmation that the company's constitutional rights were additionally damaged.

"If I am correct in saying that the whole application is misconceived, that it is being brought by the FIU wrongly, and ultimately that is vindicated in court, then everything would have proceeded in error. They would have been deprived of their due protection under the law; they would have had their business trashed, their reputations destroyed. You can just begin to imagine the size of the aware they can expect if this succeeds

## Appeal Court upholds \$90K defamation judgment

Continued from Page 1

Minister during a morning show on Love Television in November 2020, just days after his party's landslide win in the general election.

The Court of Appeal reaffirmed the decision, following an appeal brought by E. Andrew Marshalleck SC on behalf of the Prime Minister, and DeShawn Torres, attorney for RSV Ltd. They will have to pay the claimant the sum specified by the Supreme Court in its ruling. Every aspect of the trial judgment decision was challenged as grounds for appeal by the attorneys for the appellants, but ultimately none were upheld.

Former prime minister, Dean Barrow, SC, attorney for Bevans, noted when he was interviewed on Friday that, "The fact is that the appellants had no credible ground on which to persuade the court that it should overturn the trial judge's decision. Their arguments absolutely were without any kind of substance, in my view."

He said that the facts clearly show that what was said by the PM during that November 2020 interview was libelous, and since none of the defense arguments put forth in the substantive matter at the lower court succeeded, he concluded that the attempt to appeal was bound to be a fruitless effort, since none of those failed defenses could have succeeded in the Court of Appeal.

"It was clear that the Court of Appeal would not overturn the judge's decision, that none of the defenses were made out," Barrow said. He further stated that the damage award

was upheld, since no evidence that the trial judge acted on a wrong principle of law, or that the judgment was inordinately large, could have been produced,

"Since all awards turn on the particular facts of the particular case, given that this was the Prime Minister who libeled this lady, given that what he says is going to resonate way beyond what you would say or I would say, given that she had a stellar reputation, given that the Prime Minister dug in his heels after she indicated she would sue and he was questioned again by Love FM, he said, well she better not go down that route, in effect, she will see what more will happen to her... in the context of all that, the trial judge was perfectly entitled to make the size of appeal that he did, and that is what the Court of Appeal has upheld," Barrow pointed out.

The Prime Minister and RSV Ltd. will have to pay Bevans this \$90,000 unless they decide to appeal the matter to the highest appellant court in our jurisdiction, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). Whether or not an appeal will be lodged by the defendants is not yet confirmed, but Barrow suggests that the PM "gives it a rest."

Recently, Bevans was awarded approximately \$770,000 for the wrongful termination of her contract as director of the BTB—the same contract to which the Prime Minister was referring when he made the libelous comments that led to the defamation lawsuit. The Belize Tourism Board, which is also represented by Marshalleck, has not confirmed whether they will appeal that ruling.

## People's Constitutional...

Continued from Page 14

The five-part, 25-section piece of legislation covers the establishment of the commission, creates rules on the composition of the commission and appointment of members, lays out the functions and procedures of meetings, and includes administrative

provisions, said Minister Usher.

Leader of the Opposition, Moses "Shyne" Barrow, said that he hopes the commission will expand rights and protections for the Belizean people.

Recently, Anthony Chanona, former Mayor of Belmopan, was appointed to chair the People's Constitutional Commission.

ultimately," Barrow pointed out.

When interviewed on the matter today, Senior Counsel Dean Barrow again pointed to the procedural error, despite the FIU's attempt to link the human trafficking allegations with its grounds for seizing the money. In addition to this, he said that almost a week (subsequent to the raid) elapsed before the FIU made the application to seize the funds, which is also in breach of a provision in Section 38 of the Money Laundering Act, which stipulates a 72-hour period after seizure.

He said that at this time, the Caribbean International Brewery Limited should have been given their 3.1 million dollars. The company will have to borrow money to cover the costs of its operation, Barrow said today, since the hearing in the Magistrate Court of the FIU's application will continue on Wednesday of this week, with a decision not expected to be handed down until sometime next week.

Godfrey Smith is currently representing the FIU. In regards to a submission to be made in regard to tax evasion, Barrow pointed out, "Their application could only succeed if it is within time and if the original seizure was lawful. It could only have been lawful if the inspector reasonably suspects that the money was the proceeds of tax evasions, was accumulated because they were hiding taxes, or was in some other form money laundering. You've heard him say he has no suspicion of that sort, so how you will bring that in now, you develop a suspicion after the fact based on some report you get from the Tax Services? No no, that cannot be contained in the four corners of this application...it cannot be lawful if you didn't have reasonable suspicions then but you have now developed those reasonable suspicion based on what the Tax Services people have said to you after the fact."



Available at:

### **BELIZE CITY**

- \* Puma Roundabout
- \* Puma, 2 Miles Philip Goldson Hwy.
- \* Shell Service Station, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Community Drug Store
- \* William Supermarket, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Fuel Logistics, Bel-China
- \* Puma Freetown
- \* Cambranes
- \* J & K Supermarket
- \* Twin Supermarket, #5526 St Thomas Street
- \* Tow Tow Grocery Store, Mahogany Street
- \* Julie Wong Store, Belama (by police station)
- \* JB's Store, Mahogany Street
- \* 88 Shopping Center, C.A. Boulevard
- \* Freetown Drug Store
- \* Publics, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* Buca Shell, Philip Goldson Highway
- \* James Brodies & Co., Albert Street and Philip Goldson Highway
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pharmacy, Cemetery Road
- \* Save-U Supermarket

### **LADYVILLE**

- \* Puma Service Station
- \* Shell Service Station
- \* Low's Supermarket

### **ORANGE WALK**

- \* One Stop Service Station
- \* People's Store

### **COROZAL**

- \* Aguilar Car Care Products, # 60 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town
- \* Xiomara Alcalá c/o Corozal Farmer's Supplies, #99 - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corozal Town

### **BELMOPAN**

- \* Dakers Stationery & Books
- \* Hydes Mini Market
- \* First Choice Variety Gift Shop
- \* Shell Service Station
- \* Medicare Plus Pharmacy

### **CAYO**

- \* Amini Habet c/o Shell Service Station, San Ignacio
- \* Venus Store

### **BENQUE**

- \* Eduard Cambranes
- \* People's Store

### **STANN CREEK**

- \* Xaibel Service Station
- \* S & S One Stop c/o Uno Belize
- \* St. Vincent Convenience Store

### **PLACENCIA**

- \* Placencia Office Supplies

### **INDEPENDENCE**

- \* G N J Mart

### **PUNTA GORDA**

- \* King's Texaco
- \* NJV Pharmacy

### **SAN PEDRO**

- \* Rocks Shopping Center

Amandala business and editorial office: #3304 Amandala Drive (formerly Partridge Street), Belize City, Belize  
 Central America is published twice weekly. Tuesday issue can be access online: <https://amandala.com.bz/news/>  
 and join our membership portal, and the Friday issue is printed by the Amandala Press.  
 Telephones: 501-280-4703/202-4477. Our email address for business and advertisement are  
[amandalapress@gmail.com](mailto:amandalapress@gmail.com) and [amandalapress@yahoo.com](mailto:amandalapress@yahoo.com)  
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