

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

PRESS STATEMENT

Unforeseen Occurrence at Lusignan Holding Bay

On Monday, October 15, 2018 at about 16:16 hours, some prisoners in the Holding Bay at Lusignan started to behave in a riotous manner. The Prisoners hurled hundreds of missiles directly at officers, damage the inner Holding Bay fences and exited the confined area. They then focused their attention on gaining access to the gate that allows exit from the location by using several items to hit the gate, but they were unsuccessful in their attempt.

At the time of this occurrence there were five hundred and fifty-eight (558) Prisoners in the facility while a total of eighty (80) personnel from Prisons, Police and Fire Service was now working at restoring calm to the facility. Several attempts were made by officers and ranks to enter the location with the use of shields, but the large number and size of the missiles caused them to retreat to a point of safety.

As darkness approached the prisoners continued to throw various missiles damaging four (4) perimeter lights. They then started to set fire to items, mattresses and pallets were placed along the inside of the fence and set ablaze. The fires caused damage to the monitoring room with the CCTV cameras.

After repeated attempts to have the Prisoners desist from their riotous behavior failed, officers reverted to the use of rubber pellets. As this approach also failed, various calibers of live rounds were directed in the air. This resulted in a calm as eight (8) prisoners were hit by the pellets.

The eight (8) prisoners who were injured are, Cleveland Williams, Lester Joseph, Teave Cush, Raymond Jones, Corwyn Artur, Anirudh Prashad, Lakeram Singh and Lexroy Rigby. Six (6) were escorted to Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation where they received medical attention and was later sent to Georgetown Prison, while two (2) received medical attention on location.

The prisoners at Lusignan then became relatively calm and requested an audience with the Director which was facilitated. During this engagement, efforts were made to understand what prompted such action on the part of the prisoners. **From Holding Bay One and Two**, mention was made of Seven prisoners not receiving lunch, issues ranging from the physical infrastructure of the facility to length of imprisonment and the way some junior ranks deliver their duties. These concerns were noted by the Director of Prisons Mr. Glawin Samuels, and actions will be taken where necessary.

However, at about 21:15 hours some warm tea was issued since the prisoners had destroyed the food that had been prepared for dinner. The situation remained calm up until 23hours, when standby unit were increased since prisoners from Holding Bay One and two started breaking the inner fence. Nevertheless, this stopped about 00:30hrs and the facility currently remains under control as authorities continue to secure the facility.

Ministry of Public Security

October 16th, 2018