



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, November 13, 2020

Senator Samuda condemns killing of correctional officer

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, is extending condolences to the family and friends of 32-year-old correctional officer (C/O) Jimel Westney from the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre. Officer Westney was performing his assigned duties during the facilities' unlocking process when he was attacked and stabbed by an inmate earlier today.

The officer passed away a short while ago while undergoing treatment at the Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine.

"I am truly saddened at the news. I join all of Jamaica in extending my condolences to C.O. Westney's family, friends and indeed to all correctional officers. The incident underscores the need for urgent legislative reform, and capital investment to tackle the problem of contraband," said Senator Samuda while condemning the brutal act.

He added: **"Contraband represents a threat to the safety of our team and the rest of Jamaica. Our team is hurting and the necessary arrangements for counselling are being made."**

The Ministry and Department of Correctional Services extend deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late officer.

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