



**PRESS RELEASE
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Government monitoring deportation matter with firm, coordinated response

As Jamaica prepares to receive a flight of 107 deported nationals tomorrow (May 29), the Government is reassuring the public that the return of nationals with final removal orders from overseas territories is neither unexpected nor unmanaged.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang and Foreign Minister Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, say the government has been closely monitoring developments in deportation trends and that systems are activated to manage any potential increase in returns.

The Security Minister shared: **“The Government continues to monitor the matter carefully and remains in direct communication with our counterparts in the U.S and other jurisdictions.”**

He further emphasised that **“Jamaica, like other sovereign nations, is obligated under international laws to accept the return of its citizens who are subject to deportation. We have consistently fulfilled this duty while ensuring each case is managed with respect for due process and human rights. In the same way that we repatriate foreign nationals who breach our laws, we respect the right of other countries to enforce their own immigration laws.”**

Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, added that the Government has long taken proactive steps to address the issue and that existing systems are aligned to safeguard both public safety and the rights of returning Jamaicans.

“We are not operating in reaction mode and the relevant institutions are already aligned to respond. It is important to note that immigration enforcement has shifted globally, and while Jamaica is not exempt from its effects, we have been planning accordingly,” Senator Johnson Smith highlighted.

She added that: **“Deportees are also not a homogenous group, as some have serious criminal backgrounds while others have committed only immigration breaches. The Government is fully aware of the security implications, and the National Security Council is actively assessing risks and strengthening strategies to protect public safety. At the same time, we continue to advocate for the fair treatment of our nationals abroad and ensure that those returning are met with a system capable of managing reintegration. This is not a moment for panic but for preparation.”**



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Amid concerns surrounding public safety, particularly in relation to deportees with criminal backgrounds, the Government is emphasising its structured and measured approach. At a recent sitting at Jamaica House, Cabinet approved a coordinated **Deportation Response Action Plan** and established a **Multi-Agency Working Group** to ensure an orderly, secure, and humane process for any mass returns.

Approximately 2,500 nationals have been confirmed for removal from the United States in line with due process and logistical arrangements, these removals are expected to be executed over the next two years. In 2023, a total of 655 Jamaican nationals were returned from the US and in 2024, this figure increased to 814. Between January and April this year, 331 nationals were removed.

Meanwhile, Minister Chang says arrangements have already been made to accommodate incoming migrants with a clear focus on security and reintegration. He explained that both his Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade have been engaged in sustained dialogue with foreign governments and domestic partners to ensure that Jamaicans returning from abroad, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, are received and reintegrated in a structured, coordinated manner.

The Technical Working Group established by the Office of the Cabinet comprises representatives from key ministries to include law enforcement, social support agencies and civil society, and is tasked with delivering a streamlined response plan. This includes reception protocols, reintegration support, security vetting where appropriate, and community liaison services.

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