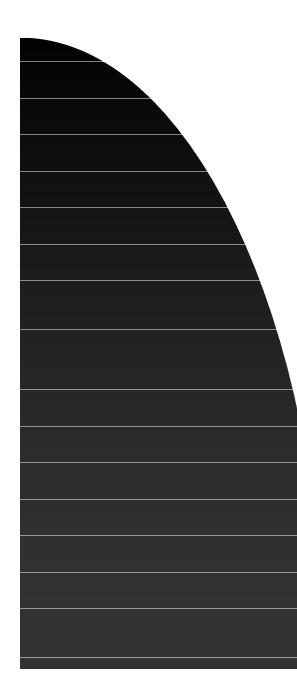
Police Accountability in the Caribbean; Where are the People?

Jamaicans For Justice



Introduction

- Brief overview of Caribbean
 Police Accountability
 Mechanisms
- Individual Country Overview
- Lessons Learnt
- Way Forward

Overview

"Police forces across the region" characterised by high levels of corruption and severe weaknesses, er complete lack of, accountability mechanisms. The timidity and ineffectualness of reform efforts are failing to break corrupt linkages, entrench accountability or produce professionalism in police forces."

Quick History

Countries were British Colonies.
 Shared history of slavery, indentureship, colonialism, multi-ethnic, migrant & mobile populations, economic struggle
 Parliamentary democracies -concentrate power in the hands of Prime Ministers
 Police Forces share core resemblance - colonial antecedents remain unreformed

Policing in the Caribbean

fers ills of Lack of Reform:

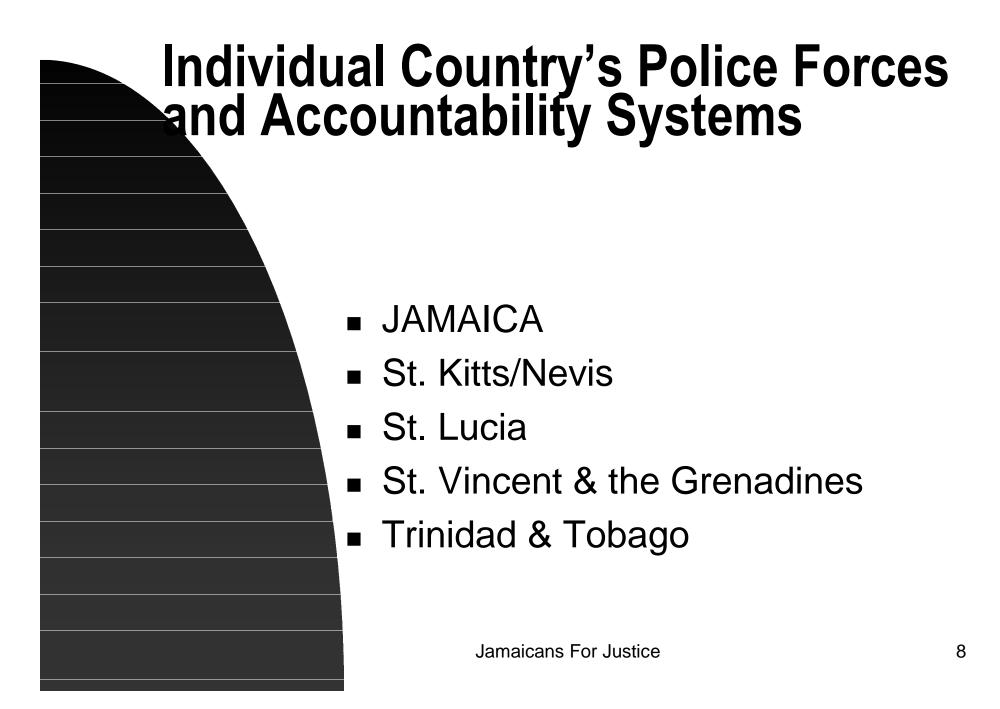
- failure to follow due process;
- use of brutality and torture;
- > corruption;
- bias and discrimination;
- » extra judicial executions.
- Why?
- Poor policing...perpetuated and...fostered by the temptation of ruling regimes...to retain forces wholly in [their] control"

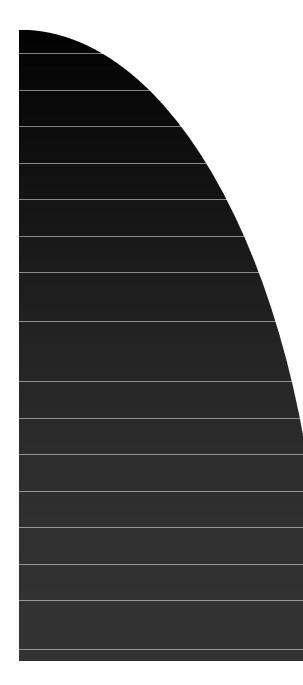
POLICE **INTERNAL POLICE OMBUDSMAN** CIVILIAN <u>n</u>try SERVICE **INVESTIGATIVE OVERSIGHT** DIVISION BODY COMMISSION Yes No No No Yes Yes No No Yes Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes No Belize Yes No No No Grenada Yes Yes No Yes Yes/Yes Yes Yes Yes Jamaica St. Kitts/Nevis Yes No No No St. Lucia Yes Yes No Yes St. Vincent & Gren. Yes No No No Trinidad & Tobago Yes Yes No Yes

Table 1:Police Accountability Systems in the Caribbean

Individual Country's Police Forces and Accountability Systems

- Antigua
- Bahamas
- BARBADOS
- Belize
- Grenada
- Guyana





Discussion

- No single blueprint for effective system of civilian oversight
- Mix of mechanisms within & outside parliament critical
- People must be de-marginalised from political process & from discourse on security forces

Caribbean Countries

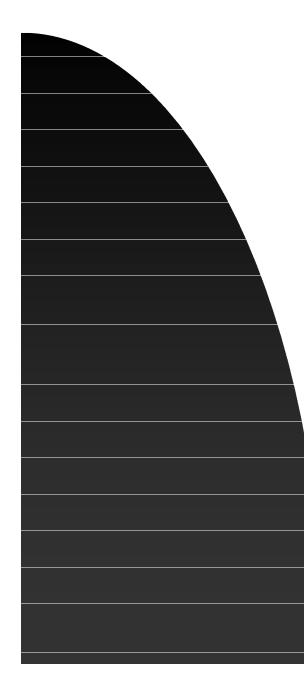
- Parliamentary Democracies
- Vigorous Public Debate
- Some Civilian Oversight YET STILL
- Struggle With Police Reform and Modernization
- Unable to Ensure Police Accountability
- Unable to Achieve Less Abusive Policing.

Table 2. DFID/ODA Expenditure and commitments1991/2 – 1997/98 (£'000) for policing projects

Country	Actual Exp.	Future Commitment	Future Commitment
Anguilla	475	580	105
Belize	555	565	10
Grenada	308	350	42
Jamaica	1,674	6,435	4,761
St Kitts-Nevis	1,023	1,137	114
St. Lucia	69	270	201
St. Vincent & Gr.	801	887	86
Other Caribbean	252	255	3
	Jama	aicans For Justice	•

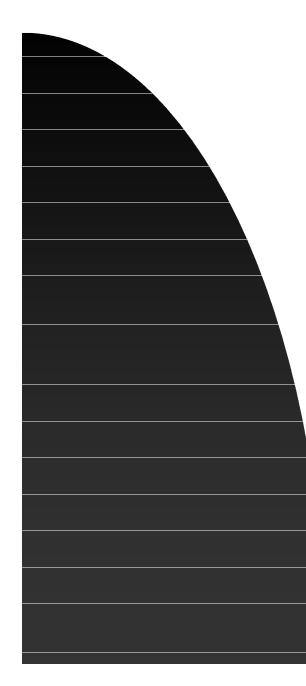
Why Few Benefits?

- Police Cannot Control Crime on Their Own
- Depend on Public Support
- More Successful Crime Control Will Follow From Obtaining Public Support
- Law and Order Are Not in Conflict.
- Policing Reform Led, or Carried Out, by Regimes Mired in Paradigms of Top Down, Hierarchical Structures Which Concentrate Power in Hands of State
 - Jamaica's Case



The Way Forward

- Need "scaffolding to support a new framework".
- Number of mechanisms not important
- Design of mechanisms critical
- Accountability to People



Conclusion

- Reform Police Services
 Commissions
- Change Constitutional Power Arrangements
- Devolved, Decentralized Power
- Accountable, Democratic Police Services will follow