

Member giving Notice: Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, MP

MOTION

CALL ON THE POLICE COMMISSIONER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO ENSURE ALL POLICE RANKS RESPECT THE HUMAN AND LEGAL RIGHTS OF GUYANESE WITH REGARDS TO ARREST, DETENTION, AND THE EQUAL TREATMENT BEFORE THE LAW.

WHEREAS, the Opposition has received numerous complaints from citizens across Guyana about some members of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) abusing their power and acting in a discriminatory manner;

AND WHEREAS, this misconduct of some members of the GPF involves maliciously detaining citizens without reasonable cause or suspicion for up to 72 hours, and arresting and releasing persons in manner that victimizes the poor and the powerless;

AND WHEREAS, these complaints are widespread—involving police stations, for example, in Linden, Bartica, and on the East Coast of Demerara;

AND WHEREAS, the rights of all Guyanese to personal liberty, to equality before the law, and to protection from inhuman treatment are guaranteed by the Constitution of Guyana and by the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

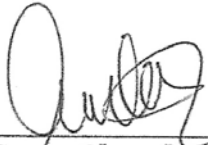
AND WHEREAS, the continued violation of these rights by some members of the GPF undermines social and political stability in the country and significantly reduces public confidence in, and public support for, the entire Police Force.

AND WHEREAS, there exist recognized international best practices and codes of conduct (such as the UN International Human Rights Standards for Law Enforcement) that the GPF can use in police training and upgrading.

BE IT RESOLVED:

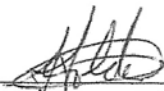
That the National Assembly calls on the Commissioner of Police to take all necessary steps, inclusive of investigations and retraining, to ensure all members of the GPF respect the human and legal rights of citizens, with special reference to arrest, detention, and fair and equal treatment before the law.

Motion Submitted:



Geeta Chandan-Edmond, MP

Motion Seconded by:



Shurwayne Holder, MP

Dated: 7th March, 2022