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FINAL REPORT OF THE
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN JAMAICA
GENERAL ELECTION 2007

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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

**FINAL REPORT OF THE
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN JAMAICA
GENERAL ELECTION 2007**

Secretariat for Political Affairs

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an exchange of correspondence beginning in June 2007, Errol Miller, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ), invited the Organization of American States (OAS) to field an electoral observation mission in Jamaica. The Organization of American States (OAS) responded positively to this request and arranged, for the first time, to observe elections on the island. During a short preliminary mission, from August 15 to 16, OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin met with the various administrative and political actors in the electoral process to discuss preparations for the election and signed an agreement with the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) establishing the objectives and procedures for the observers' activities. During this visit, the OAS also signed an agreement of privileges and immunities with the Government of Jamaica and another agreement of electoral guarantees with the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ).

Due to the damage inflicted by Hurricane Dean, the elections, originally scheduled for August 27, were postponed by a week until September 3. Among the effects of the hurricane was the almost total loss of electricity throughout the island. Hurricane Dean not only disrupted the preparations for the elections, but the mission as well. Flights had to be rerouted and expenses increased accordingly. Despite these adverse circumstances, the OAS fielded a mission comprising 38 international observers from 15 countries, who were deployed in 88 percent of the island's constituencies. A core group of observers employed by the OAS joined a group of volunteers from resident diplomatic missions and from the University of the West Indies.

Since universal franchise in the 1940s, these elections proved to be the closest in the country's history. Candidates from the two traditional parties of Jamaica, the People's National Party (PNP) and the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) competed in all 60 of the island's constituencies. In 19 constituencies candidates ran independently or with a third political party. However, none of these succeeded in winning a seat. After 18 years of government by the People's National Party (PNP), the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) returned to power with 33 seats, while the People's National Party (PNP), with 27 seats, forms the new Opposition. By Jamaican standards, voter turnout was a relatively low 60%.

On Election Day, observers were deployed throughout the country, witnessing firsthand the electoral preparations, voting, and counting of ballots. They noted that, despite violent acts and loss of life in the campaign period, Election Day itself was peaceful. With few exceptions, polls throughout the country opened on time. The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) had effectively addressed the challenges posed by Hurricane Dean: polling stations provided the room, shelter, and equipment needed by voters. The appropriate election materials were present and, for the most part, well-trained election officials performed their duties efficiently and conscientiously. Everywhere, security was present and adequate. Auxiliary security workers manned the polling stations; the police and armed forces maintained order around the polling centers both during voting and during tallying. Party agents maintained a spirit of collegiality and worked together with election officials to ensure a smooth and orderly process.

Almost without exception, everyone whose name was on the voters' list was able to vote. Even those citizens without identifying documentation were afforded their franchise through alternative verification processes. Observers remarked that officials were scrupulous in ensuring that no voter who could prove their entitlement to vote was disenfranchised. In 700 polling centers in the most contentious constituencies, also known as "Garrison Constituencies" in Jamaica, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) had implemented an Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System, using fingerprints to verify voter identities. Reports from OAS observers and those of local electoral observation group Citizens' Action for Free and

Fair Elections (CAFFE) indicated that this technology worked well and was confidently accepted by both officials and voters.

Lines in the morning were long in many places. The wait was exacerbated by the fact that many voters did not have proper identification and their identities had to be verified through a series of questions. Lines eventually subsided and all who wanted to, voted. Polls closed promptly at 5:00 p.m. and, as at the opening, electoral officials followed procedures appropriately and expeditiously. Preliminary results were released the same day.

At the invitation of the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), the Mission appointed a member of its team to participate in the deliberations of the Election Center, a mechanism that, in the run-up to the election, permitted the political parties to voice their concerns to appropriate authorities and seek immediate responses to these concerns. The observer of this process was impressed by the openness and effectiveness of the Election Center, which allowed participants from across the political spectrum to communicate grievances or anxieties in a neutral setting and to request and see quick action on security and election management.

The OAS Mission wishes to recognize and thank all those involved in the General Elections of 2007 in Jamaica. In particular, the Mission congratulates the Jamaican people on their peaceful and orderly participation in this vital democratic exercise. The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), headed by Danville Walker, did an excellent job under difficult circumstances. Election officials, the constabulary and security forces all performed their duties in an exemplary fashion, as did the national electoral observation group, CAFFE. There were some ways in which the Mission felt the electoral process in Jamaica could be improved and these are detailed in the conclusions and recommendations of this report. Overall, however, the conclusion of the OAS observation Mission in Jamaica is positive. These elections were extremely well organized, transparent, and every effort was made to promote the participation of all citizens.

The Mission would also like to thank the Governments of Canada, the People's Republic of China and the United States for providing crucial financial support and observers and, likewise, the Governments of the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Haiti as well as the University of the West Indies, which also contributed volunteer observers.

CHAPTER I. BACKGROUND

A. HISTORY

Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba, with a land area of 10,831 square kilometers and a population of 2,780,132, of which approximately 91.2 percent are black, 6.2 percent are of mixed race, and 2.6 percent are of white or other ethnicity. The island's modern economy is heavily dependent on services, which account for over 60 percent of the GDP. Tourism is a growth sector, but other important industries, such as bauxite mining, fruit production, sugar, and coffee have struggled in the face of international competition and events such as Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which caused extensive damage. Jamaica has steadily reduced its public debt in recent years and inflation has fallen, but the public debt to GDP ratio remains high, at over 130 percent, and unemployment, underemployment and violence fueled by gangs involved in the illegal drug trade remain significant challenges.

Initially populated by Amerindian Tainos, Jamaica was colonized by the Spanish in the sixteenth century, causing extermination of the native population. The colonists increasingly brought slaves from West Africa to supply labor; some escaped into the island's interior,

becoming known as *cimmarones* (“untamed”), a word later corrupted by the British into ‘Maroons’. In the mid seventeenth century, a British force led by Robert Venables and William Penn captured Jamaica from the Spanish and large tracts of the island were divided into estates for the naval officers involved in the conquest. Buccaneers, who pursued Spanish ships in Caribbean waters, were initially encouraged by the British, who benefited from the defense and booty they afforded, but were then outlawed, as the Jamaican economy turned from intercepting South American cargo to exporting sugar, of which in the eighteenth century it became the world’s biggest producer.

Sugar and coffee plantations manned by large numbers of slaves, kept in squalid conditions, generated enormous wealth for a small number of colonists. Grotesque inequality and abuse produced continual conflict between slaves and slave owners. Slave rebellions, with escaping slaves sometimes joining the renegade inland Maroons, followed by violent reprisals in which thousands of slaves were executed, were a feature of British occupation, from 1690 through to 1838 when slaves were finally emancipated. Jamaica remained tense after abolition, with freed slaves struggling to afford high rents to farm land still held by planters, and a further revolt against the colonists in 1865, followed by summary executions by the British Governor, led Britain in 1866 to make the island a Crown Colony, with direct rule from Britain replacing an elected assembly that had been dominated by plantation owners. This change had the benefit of introducing modern reforms and investment in education, transport, law courts, and policing; however, paternalistic and unrepresentative rule from overseas frustrated the development of democracy on the island for nearly eighty years.

The early twentieth century brought increasing economic prosperity to Jamaica, with the fruit industry, especially bananas, and tourism, initially from travelers carried on the banana boats, developing in tandem. However, gross inequality remained a feature of the island’s socio-economic make-up and a series of natural disasters including earthquakes and hurricanes took their toll. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, a dramatic fall in sugar exports, a banana crop decimated by disease, and tightened US immigration laws all put pressure on swelling numbers of unemployed workers. Riots, protests and strikes erupted. As a result of a fatal clash in 1938 between police and workers at the West Indies Sugar Factory in Frome, Alexander Bustamante founded Jamaica’s first trade union and, in the crucible of trade union activism, a political party took shape: the People’s National Party (PNP), founded by lawyer Norman Manley. In 1943 Bustamante split from Manley’s PNP to found the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP). These two parties have continued as the major forces contesting Jamaican politics to the present day.

Jamaica was an important Allied base during World War II, the island provided Britain with vital food supplies, and many Jamaicans fought on the Allied side. These roles created a more international outlook, financial investment and pressure for greater autonomy. A new constitution in 1944 introduced universal adult suffrage and the first elections were held for a locally-based government to work in conjunction with the British-appointed governor. The JLP, which came to adopt a liberal capitalist philosophy, won these elections on a ‘Bread and Butter’ platform and returned to government in 1949. Norman Manley’s PNP, which leant toward democratic socialism, at first failed to persuade voters with its vision, which favored independence. However, in 1955, the PNP was successful at the polls and a break with Britain followed. In 1958, Jamaica joined the new West Indian Federation, intended to form an economic and political bloc that would replace colonial with inter-Caribbean ties; the federation, however, disintegrated in 1961. Jamaica gained full independence in 1962, while remaining a member of the British Commonwealth.

On winning the 1962 election, Alexander Bustamante became Jamaica's first post-independence Prime Minister and the JLP continued in power until the election of 1972, won by the PNP, led by Michael Manley (Norman Manley's son). There followed eight years of PNP rule. During the 1970s, Jamaican politics became highly polarized. Rejecting ties with the United States, Michael Manley's government turned to the nonaligned movement and created close ties with Fidel Castro's Cuba. Higher taxation and American economic sanctions encouraged some wealthy white Jamaicans and foreign investors to leave. Edward Seaga, leader of the JLP, accused the administration of 'communism'. There was an upsurge in political violence, particularly in urban ghetto or 'garrison' constituencies, where party supporters increasingly carried guns. Rival gangs affiliated with the major political parties evolved into organized crime networks involved in drug smuggling and money laundering. Difficult economic times, in which the government was forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), exacerbated rising political tensions and the 1980 election campaign was exceptionally violent, with several hundred deaths in shoot-outs and gang warfare.

Edward Seaga of the JLP won the 1980 elections and immediately realigned Jamaica toward the United States, embracing the newly-elected Reagan administration. In 1983, Jamaican troops assisted the US invasion of Grenada to depose Marxist leaders who had overthrown and executed the Prime Minister. Shortly afterward, the JLP called a snap election, which the PNP boycotted, leaving the JLP under Seaga in sole control of Jamaica's parliament until 1989, when Michael Manley and the PNP returned to office. Although the new PNP administration restored links with Cuba, they emphasized continuity of policy, maintaining diplomatic relations with the USA and a generally liberal economic policy. In 1992, Manley resigned the premiership on grounds of ill health and was succeeded by P.J. Patterson. Patterson went on to defeat Seaga and the JLP in the 1993 general elections and was re-elected in 1997 and 2002, bringing to an end an era in which the PNP and JLP had typically alternated after two terms. In 2006, he resigned as Prime Minister, handing over to Portia Simpson-Miller, who became Jamaica's first female Prime Minister.

At the time of the 2007 OAS Electoral Observation Mission (EOM), Portia Simpson-Miller led the PNP, which had been in power for 18 years. Meanwhile, Bruce Golding led the JLP, which was seeking a return to government after a long absence. Election preparations were affected by Hurricane Dean, a category four hurricane, which arrived on August 19. Although Jamaica was spared a direct hit, its south coast was battered with torrential rain, high winds and storm surges, causing significant damage to property, toppling trees across roads and pylons, outing electricity supply to much of the island, and forcing airport closures. The Prime Minister declared a month-long state of emergency and the general elections were postponed from their original date of August 27 until September 3.

B. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy on the Westminster model. Its bicameral Parliament consists of an appointed Senate and an elected House of Representatives. The House of Representatives has 60 seats, corresponding to Jamaica's 60 constituencies, which are grouped into 14 administrative parishes. Single members are elected by popular vote in a "first-past-the-post" general election, to serve parliamentary terms of up to five years, until the next election. The Senate has twenty-one seats, thirteen appointed on the advice of the prime minister, and eight on the advice of the leader of the opposition; significant constitutional change requires a two thirds majority in both houses: thus, for example, at least one opposition appointee would have to vote with those of the government in the Senate. General elections must be held within five years of the forming of a new government.

The Governor General, an honorary appointment made on the advice of the Prime Minister, represents British monarch Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State, and performs ceremonial functions, though formally possessing a reserve power to dismiss the Prime Minister or Parliament. Following general elections, the Governor General will usually nominate the leader of the majority party as Prime Minister, and the Cabinet on the Prime Minister's advice. No fewer than two and no more than four members of the Cabinet must be selected from the Senate.

All Jamaican citizens who have reached the age of eighteen are entitled to register to vote, provided they are residents in Jamaica on the date of registration. Citizenship is bestowed by birth, parentage (either parent) or marriage. Commonwealth citizens may also vote if they have been residents in Jamaica for at least twelve months prior to registration. Dual citizenship is recognized by Jamaica for the purpose of voting, but dual nationals are not qualified to be appointed to the Senate or elected to the House of Representatives. Election workers and members of the police and armed forces cast their ballots a few days before the general election, to allow them to work on Election Day to manage and secure polling sites.

C. POLITICAL PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING FRAMEWORK

Like most of its counterparts in the Commonwealth Caribbean, Jamaica does not have a tradition of public funding for political candidates or political parties. Jamaica's Representation of the People Act requires candidates, rather than political parties, to disclose the amounts they receive or spend. Each candidate is required to account for election-related income and expenditure within six weeks of Election Day. There is a J\$ 3 million (approximately US\$42,700) limit on expenditure. There is, however, no system in place for inspecting or auditing candidates' returns. Expenditure limits are thus largely unenforced and disregarded. Moreover, parties do not insist that candidates obey the law. Some candidates even declare that they spent nothing, and that the party met all their expenses. Lacking juridical definition, political parties are not required to indicate funding sources or amounts spent. There are no significant requirements for distribution of resources, nor prohibitions and limits on financing. This situation contributes to a degree of inequity and unfairness of competition among parties and candidates running for office. Those with access to resources enjoy a distinct, though not necessarily decisive, electoral advantage. The financing regime facilitates undue influence by the private sector, licit and illicit, undermines the integrity of the public procurement system, and brings the wider political system into disrepute.

A lack of disclosure in Jamaica makes it difficult to estimate campaign expenditures with any real precision. As elsewhere in the Caribbean, though, there is considerable evidence of a significant increase in spending on electoral activities in recent years, due partly to a marked decline in volunteer political activism, but chiefly due to a substantial increase in media campaign costs.

There is a concentration of major donors. Recipients of significant donations are confined to the candidates and leadership of the two major political parties. While no one has been convicted or even charged with receiving illegal campaign contributions, many Jamaicans interviewed in a 2005 OAS study into Caribbean political financing believed that proceeds from illegal drug money found their way into election campaigns, probably through individual candidates.

There have been some recent signs that both major parties are concerned by the lack of transparency and accountability in current campaign finance requirements and that the regulation of political financing in Jamaica is on the legislative agenda. A professor at the University of the West Indies has argued that legislative reform to ensure "greater transparency and accountability

in political parties and in the public sector" is an urgent requirement for strengthening national integrity systems in the Caribbean.¹

CHAPTER II. PARTICIPANTS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

A. ELECTION AUTHORITY AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

1. The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ)

The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), headed by the Director of Elections, is responsible for operating the electoral system and conducting the island's elections; it employs and deploys election officials. On Election Day a Presiding Officer and a Poll Clerk staff each polling station; they report to the Returning Officer for that constituency. Returning Officers report preliminary results electronically, immediately following the count, to the Election Centre, where the Director of Elections controls operations.

2. The Jamaican Electoral Commission (JEC)

The Jamaican Electoral Commission (JEC) replaced in December 2006 the Electoral Advisory Committee (EAC). Currently headed by Professor Errol Miller, it has nine members: four nominated (two PNP and two JLP), four selected members (from civil society), and the Director of Elections, who is a non-acting member. This structure replaces that of the former Electoral Advisory Committee (EAC), effective since 1979, which had eight members: two persons nominated by the Prime Minister, two nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, three independent voting members and the Director of Elections. The new JEC structure gives equal weight of voting numbers to party political and civil society members. The JEC also carries greater authority than the previous EAC and can enforce compliance with its recommendations.

3. The Political Ombudsman

The Office of the Political Ombudsman was established in 2002 and has the responsibility of investigating complaints and problems in the political arena. The Ombudsman, currently Bishop Herro Blair, is required by law to investigate complaints to his office – for example complaints about intimidation and harassment, or other improper or illegal activity by politicians and their supporters. He has authority to appoint a tribunal comprising political party representatives to assist him in the investigation process. Complaints to the office may be made by any person or a body of persons whether incorporated or not, who claim to be affected by any such action by members of a political party. As the Political Ombudsman described the process: "We go through the complaints, we discuss them and I try the matter before the leaders, come up with a decision and then they go away with the decision. So far so good, the decisions have been accepted by the persons concerned."² From nomination day to Election Day the Political Ombudsman makes all his rulings public, stating why he has come to a decision and what action he has determined that the political actors should take.

¹ Organization of American States, "Caribbean Meeting of Inter-American Forum on Political Parties Final Report," Montego Bay, Jamaica. April 27 to 29, 2005, page 19.

² "Political Ombudsman urges Citizens to Maintain Peace during Election Period," in *General Election 2007*, Jamaica Information Service, August 3, 2007.

4. The Election Centre

The Election Centre was established in 2002 to enhance the management, transparency and interaction of all stakeholders in the period between nomination day and Election Day. The centre includes representatives of the main political parties – the People's National Party (PNP), the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), and the National Democratic Movement (NDM). It also includes the Political Ombudsman, a representative of the civil society group Citizens' Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE), a representative of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Director of Elections. Regular, scheduled meetings are held to discuss any issue affecting either political or electoral matters; political matters are handled by the Political Ombudsman and electoral matters by the Director of Elections. The Centre provides a safe and functional forum for conflict resolution and a clearing-house for information, in which the competing parties and other stakeholders can raise complaints, address problems such as outbreaks of election-related violence, and see immediate action taken on these issues. The Centre is equipped with telephones, computers and databases that allow it to track incidents, follow-up actions, and outcomes. It issues daily press briefings, combating the spread of rumor and misinformation that have in the past fueled violence during the election period. A member of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) was permitted to sit in on the deliberations of the Election Centre and observe its workings.

B. POLITICAL PARTIES

Two political parties have traditionally dominated elections in Jamaica: the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the People's National Party (PNP). Third party or independent candidates contested 19 constituencies in the 2007 election but none won a seat and, taken together, they polled only 0.1% of the vote.

1. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)

Party colour: Green

Party symbol: The liberty bell

The Jamaica Labour Party, founded in 1943 by Alexander Bustamante, as the political wing of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, won the first elections held in Jamaica under universal suffrage in 1944. Although born, like the PNP, out of the trades union movement, with an emphasis on improving relations between workers and employers and pursuing greater racial and social equality, the JLP gradually came to occupy a liberal capitalist position further to the political right than the PNP, stressing the importance of attracting inward investment and economic growth. Ideological difference from the PNP was at its most pronounced in the 1970s and early 1980s, when the JLP objected strongly to the PNP's socialist fiscal and foreign policy. Bustamante led the party from its founding until 1964, when he retired from active participation in politics. The JLP held a parliamentary majority from independence in 1962 to 1972 under Bustamante, de facto succeeded by Donald Sangster and Hugh Shearer as acting leaders during Bustamante's long illness. In 1980, the JLP, then led by Edward Seaga, regained its majority in the second of two elections marked by violence between supporters of the two parties. In 1983 a controversial snap election called by Seaga was boycotted by the PNP and thus effectively uncontested. The JLP remained in power until 1989 and then lost five consecutive elections. The current leader of the JLP, Bruce Golding, took the helm of the party in 2005.

The JLP's 2007 manifesto, "A Better Way... for a Better Jamaica", starts by criticizing the eighteen years of PNP administration, asserting that Jamaica has fallen steadily behind comparable nations. It goes on to focus on key areas: economic growth, reduction in the national debt, unemployment, crime, education and skills, corruption, health services, road maintenance, water, human rights, the justice system and "values, standards and respect" in society as a whole.

The party slogan "Justice, Liberty & Prosperity", plays on the initials JLP, and emphasizes its message that these three areas suffered under the PNP. While conspicuously absent from the manifesto, other campaigning material accused the PNP of large-scale corruption.

2. The People's National Party (PNP)

Party colour: Orange

Party symbol: A head

The People's National Party (PNP), founded by Norman Manley in 1938 and supported by the National Workers' Union (NWU), is regarded as the more left wing of the two main Jamaican political parties. It came to office in 1955, which it held until just before independence in 1962, when it was defeated by the JLP. Ten years later, under the leadership of its founder's son, Michael Manley, it returned to office committed to democratic socialism and an anti-imperialist foreign policy that brought it into conflict with vested interests on the island and with the United States. The PNP won the following election but was defeated at the polls in 1980, both campaigns being marked by violence between the supporters of the two parties. In 1983, Manley led the party in a boycott of the snap election, and the PNP was absent from parliament for more than five years.

Still under Manley, the PNP returned to power in 1989, having largely abandoned its previous fiscal and foreign policy stance while continuing to stress investment in the public sector. Manley retired in 1992, and the party went on to win the next five consecutive elections under Percival Patterson. In February 2006, Portia Simpson-Miller was elected as Patterson's successor, becoming the first female president of the PNP and Prime Minister of Jamaica, on a huge wave of popular support.

The PNP's 2007 manifesto, "Shaping the future together... on course to the quality society", emphasized tackling poverty through economic development, with a declared mission "Toward developed country status". It claimed credit for economic stability, infrastructural development, transformation of social services and attraction of foreign investment. Specific policy areas highlighted included: constitutional reform; governance and justice; public order and security; wealth and job creation; environment, land and development planning; energy security; education and training; governance and community development; and a number of specific social programs.

3. The National Democratic Movement (NDM)

Party color: Yellow and green Party symbol: The lighthouse

A third political party, with conservative leanings, the National Democratic Movement (NDM), was formed in October 1995 by Bruce Golding, former chairman of the JLP. The NDM claims that Jamaica has suffered due to a stagnant economy and rapidly growing population and that constitutional and civic reform and investment are desperately needed to save the country from poverty and corruption: two-party politics has served Jamaica ill and it needs a third way. Mr. Golding returned to the JLP in 2002, assuming its leadership when Edward Seaga retired, and several other leading figures in the NDM have since withdrawn or significantly reduced their activities in the party. Under its leader, Earl DeLisser, the NDM polled only 540 votes in the 2007 election.

4. Imperial Ethiopian World Federation Incorporation Party (IEWFIPP)

The first Rastafarian political party was launched in October 2001 by Ras Astor Black. His campaign platform was to rid Jamaica of 'economic and political terrorists' and to abolish the current constitution and monarchy. This paved the way for the creation of IEWFIPP in 2002 by members of the church of Haile Selassie. Many Rastafarians are opposed to any involvement in

mainstream politics, including voting, but IEWFIPP seeks to unite Rastafarians, to seek better political representation for their views, and closer ties between Africa and Jamaica. In 2007 the party was represented in nine constituencies but did not win a slice of the vote.

C. CIVIL SOCIETY

Citizens' Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE) was founded in 1997 and is staffed solely by volunteers. It aims to monitor elections, including parish council elections and by-elections as well as general elections in its remit, and to encourage a peaceful and orderly campaign period. Before a general election CAFFE holds meetings around the island and seeks around 2000 volunteers, who are trained to observe the polls and are deployed throughout Jamaica's fourteen constituencies.

The Jamaica Women's Political Caucus (JWPC), a non-partisan, voluntary organization devoted to increasing the participation of women in representational politics at the highest level, encourages and supports female candidature in elections. As it has done since 1993, during the campaign the JWPC hosted a media breakfast in a Kingston hotel specifically for women candidates, inviting them to present their campaign highlights and their personal profile.

D. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

In addition to the OAS Election Observation Mission, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mounted an observer mission, with which the OAS Mission liaised closely, and which presented similar findings. The CARICOM Mission numbered nine, and was headed by Mr. Gerald Watt, Chairman of the Election Commission of Antigua and Barbuda.

CHAPTER III. VOTING PROCEDURE

Each polling station is manned by a Presiding Officer and a Poll Clerk. These election officials report to a Returning Officer, responsible for the electoral district. Members of the police, auxiliary police and/or armed forces are present to secure each polling site, and one party agent or representative for each candidate contesting the election is permitted to be present to witness the conduct of the poll, as are accredited national and/or international observers. No candidate and his or her agent should both be in the same polling station for more than five minutes and no more than four election observers are permitted to remain in any polling location at any one time. No cell phones, cameras, or other video recording devices are permitted in the polling station.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. All polling officials should report for duty no later than 6 a.m. The Presiding Officer must post the Directions to Electors in a visible place outside the polling station before the poll opens. S/he must count the ballot papers in the presence of the agents and give them copies of a certificate signed by the Returning Officer setting out the serial number of ballot papers for use at that station. At 7 a.m., s/he must display the empty ballot box to all present, then lock it and keep the key, placing the box on the table in full view where it must remain until the poll closes.

On entering the polling station each elector declares his or her name, which the poll clerk checks against the official list of electors for that station, and produces his or her identity card. The Presiding Officer checks the ID card and inspects the elector's finger with the integrity lamp to ascertain if there is any stain of electoral ink.

Electors without ID cards can also be identified by other means. If the polling station is equipped with an Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS), the voter's fingerprint(s) can be electronically scanned, bringing his or her name up on a computer screen if s/he is eligible to vote. Electors who lack ID cards can also be identified by means of the Black Book, a compilation of voter data: the voter is asked questions, such as 'in what parish was your father born; what is your mother's maiden name; what is your spouse's occupation', which s/he must answer correctly.

If the elector is satisfactorily identified, the Presiding Officer then issues a ballot, instructing the elector impartially on how to mark and fold the ballot and directing him or her to the voting booth. Having made his or her mark in the voting booth against the name of a candidate, the elector presents the ballot to the Presiding Officer, folded in such a way that his or her mark is not seen but the initials of the Presiding Officer are visible. The Presiding Officer examines the top of the ballot and checks the serial number to make sure it is the ballot issued to that elector. The serial number of the ballot returned must be recorded in the Poll Book. The Presiding Officer then tears off the serial number and destroys it in the presence of the elector. S/he requires the elector to immerse the right index finger in the electoral ink and deposits the ballot in the ballot box. The Poll Clerk then records in the Poll Book that the elector has voted.

Those physically incapacitated may direct the presiding officer, in the presence of the poll clerk and party agents, to cast their vote according to their instructions. Blind voters may, alternatively, be assisted by a chosen friend, but no person can act in this capacity for more than one blind voter.

If at 5 p.m. there are persons still waiting to vote, the Presiding Officer can either invite them into the polling station and close the door (depending on number) or ask the policeman to note the last person in the line and not to allow any other person to join the line. All eligible voters in line at 5 p.m. must be allowed to exercise their franchise.

At the close of the poll, the Presiding Officer seals the slot on top of the ballot box and writes and signs a statement in the Poll Book below the last entry, declaring the number of persons who voted at that station. S/he checks the number of spoiled and unused ballots, distributes tally sheets, then opens the ballot box and counts the ballots therein. S/he encases ballots in appropriate envelopes, as marked for individual candidates, and ensures the packages are signed and sealed. S/he completes a preliminary certificate and affixes a copy of the preliminary results on a form which is pasted on the side of the ballot box. The Presiding Officer then prepares a Statement of Poll and the Polling Station Accounts.

When all the necessary election materials have been properly packaged and signed by the election officials and party agents, the Presiding Officer delivers or dispatches the ballot box to the Returning Officer as directed.

CHAPTER IV. OBSERVATIONS OF THE OAS

A. PRE-ELECTION

During a short preliminary mission, from August 15 to 16, 2007, the Chief of Mission met with the various administrative and political actors in the electoral process to discuss preparations for the election, and signed an agreement with the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) establishing the objectives and procedures for the EOM and an agreement of privileges and immunities with the Government of Jamaica. During that visit, and in the days before the election, he also met

with the Governor General, the Political Ombudsman, representatives of civil society organizations, including youth and religious organizations, the international diplomatic community, and the local observer group CAFFE. The OAS Electoral Observer Mission remained in close contact with the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) during the period of disruption due to the hurricane on August 19, which caused the election to be postponed by a week. Observers arrived a few days before the new election date of September 3.

From the beginning, the 2007 election appeared closely contested. While Portia Simpson-Miller took office in 2006 on a wave of popular support and some early polls suggested a narrow PNP lead, the JLP gathered increasing support as the campaign wore on and polls began to suggest the possibility of a narrow JLP victory. Media criticism of Simpson-Miller's leadership, particularly her handling of relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Dean, appeared to contribute to this shift. Personalities loomed large in campaign rhetoric, with an unfortunate degree of "ad personam" rhetoric and negative campaigning on both sides that sought to emphasize opponents' failures rather than proposing positive policy directions. Indeed, several commentators remarked that there was now little to differentiate the policies of the two major parties.

Party political broadcasting on television and radio was ubiquitous throughout the campaign period, including the final 48 hours before Election Day, when several of the incidents of politically-related violence occurred. The unusually lengthy campaign period of eight weeks (including the week-long postponement) meant that this was clearly a very costly campaign and traditional rivalries between supporters of the two major parties had an opportunity to manifest and deepen.

On a positive note, candidates in all 60 constituencies signed a Code of Conduct, agreed to in Parliament between the two main political parties. This Code extended to all members of political parties operating in Jamaica and enshrined principles including non-violence and non-intimidation, safety of public and private property, avoidance of confrontation, avoidance of inflammatory utterances, freedom of access, eschewing political tribalism, and commitment to a code of ethics.

According to Errol Miller, the chairman of Jamaica's Electoral Commission (JEC), there was a small rise in 2007 in the number of incidents of politically-related violence compared with the 2002 elections, in which there were four politically-related deaths. Gunmen shot seven people on September 1, in what police said was political violence. Many of the ten other killings reported to police over the weekend of September 1 and 2 were thought to have been politically linked. Miller attributed the rise in violence to the tension of a tight political race in an election that had 'a sharper edge than 2002', but emphasized that these incidents, though lamentable, were small in number compared to the hundreds of fatal incidents of political violence Jamaica endured in the past. The general trend toward a peaceful electoral process remains positive and many emphasized the process of 'painstaking change' that Jamaica has undergone toward reform.

Improvements in the electoral system introduced in 2002, such as the introduction of the Election Centre and the reinstatement of the role of Political Ombudsman, continued to prove their worth in the 2007 elections. The Election Centre and the power of the Political Ombudsman helped address complaints and resolve conflict quickly and openly, to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Rallies were cancelled on the spot in constituencies where violence had flared up. A helicopter tour of constituencies by one candidate was deemed to fall into the forbidden category of campaigning in the final 24 hours before the poll and the candidate was promptly grounded. The member of the OAS EOM who was permitted to visit the Election Centre reported on the effectiveness of this mechanism and the civility of its interactions.

The Mission conducted a training session on September 1, where observers were taken through the parameters and methodology for observing and were assigned partners and areas to cover. At this session, the Mission met with the Director of Elections and was likewise impressed by the steps undertaken by the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ), some tested in 2002 and refined and reinforced in 2007, to create a more robust and reliable electoral process. For example, swift electronic transmission of results directly to the Election Centre meant that ballot boxes, which in previous elections had sometimes been stolen en route to Returning Offices, were no longer targets. The fact that, since 2002, election workers vote at an early date, along with the police and armed forces, allowed for greater flexibility in deployment. Election Day workers could thus be deployed to any polling site on the island and were frequently brought from elsewhere in the country to staff stations in Garrison Constituencies, where the integrity and impartiality of officials were formerly difficult to ensure.

A voters' list is produced every six months and every month a meeting in every constituency looks at reported duplicates and anomalies. A recent house-to-house re-verification exercise removed 235,000 people from the voters' list of 1.3 million. The Director of Elections explained that, although the list likely remained inflated by the names of some who had died or emigrated, the EOJ's chief concern was that it should not accidentally disenfranchise any legitimate voter, but should robustly prevent double or fraudulent voting. To that end, identification checks had been made more stringent in 2007, with an Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS) using fingerprints to verify voter identities in 700 of the most contentious constituencies. Voters without ID were asked a series of questions (such as their spouse's occupation, their date of birth, and mother's parish). The answers were supplied to election officials as a "Black Book" of voter data. Voters verified by the Black Book system were required to leave a manual record of their index fingerprint for inclusion in future records.

The Director of Elections reported that only eight polling stations had been relocated because of hurricane and 155 had been damaged but repaired in time for the election. These centers represented just a small fraction of Jamaica's 6,230 polling stations, most of which were unaffected. Electricity loss had been restored in most places. The EOJ could thus express confidence that the aftermath of the hurricane would not materially affect Election Day.

B. ELECTION DAY

Observers, working in pairs, were assigned to cover the polling stations in a designated area. Those observing in rural areas were typically able to cover between one and three constituencies, while those in densely populated urban areas were able to cover between three and five constituencies. On Election Day, September 3, 2007, each pair of observers arrived at a selected polling station at approximately 6 a.m. to observe preparations and opening procedures. Throughout the day, they circulated to different polling stations in their constituencies, collecting information about the opening and closing of the polls and the conduct of the voting and recording it on special forms (see Appendix VI). They obtained this information through firsthand observation and through interviews with the election officials, policemen and voters at the polling stations. In all, the OAS EOM's 38 observers covered 88 percent of the island's constituencies

Observers remained at a particular polling station after 5 p.m. to witness the close of the poll and counting of ballots. They delivered their completed forms to the Mission rapporteur and made an oral report at a meeting held by the Chief of Mission on the evening of September 3. A small CARICOM mission also observed the 2007 Jamaica general election and both observer missions shared their impressions, which proved broadly similar.

A consistent picture emerged from the observer testimony about the election, despite the very varied areas of Jamaica in which teams were deployed. On Election Day, polling was peaceful and ran smoothly. A small percentage of polling stations experienced minor delays in opening, in a couple of cases because the Black Book had not yet arrived. However, the vast majority opened on time at 7 a.m. In general, the necessary election materials were present and correct.

The secrecy of the ballot and integrity of the ballot box were rigorously maintained. Almost without exception, everyone whose name was on the voters' list was able to vote. Even those citizens without identifying documentation were afforded their franchise through alternative verification processes; observers remarked that officials were scrupulous in ensuring that no voter who could prove their entitlement to vote was disenfranchised. For example, in one case in rural St. Andrew, a woman who had been impersonated by another individual and who had thus been wrongly recorded as having voted was, after proving her identity, permitted to vote. This case of impersonation was the only case the observers came across of serious irregularity on the part of an elector. Election officials addressed this problem following standard procedure.

Observers noted long lines at polling stations, especially in the morning. In a couple of cases, an attempt to prevent long and unruly lines within the polling site resulted in a frustrated crowd developing outside its gates. These lines dwindled during the day and all those entitled to vote could do so. However, lines were rendered long in some cases due to uneven distribution of voters between polling stations, often at the same polling site. Some polling stations had as many as 400 voters while, according to one observer in West Rural St. Andrew, one polling station had only seven registered voters. Within urban polling sites, it was common to find that one polling station had double or triple the number of voters registered at others, so that one team of electoral officers was stretched to capacity while others remained idle.

Many voters did not have their voter identification card with them and therefore had to go through a process of questioning, confirmation and fingerprinting, which on average doubled the time for the casting of the ballot. In 700 polling centers in the "Garrison Constituencies", the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) implemented the Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS), using fingerprints to verify voter identities. This technology required the use of a fingerprint reader, a portable computer and a printer. The voter merely placed his or her finger on the reader and all of the relevant information appeared on the computer screen. Despite the high-level technology, voters appeared to trust this system. Likewise, the technicians and poll workers were comfortable in its use.³ Reports from OAS observers indicated that this technology worked well and expedited the voting process.

Security on Election Day was everywhere present and robust. A large number of auxiliary police officers supplemented the presence of regular police and members of the armed forces at polling sites. Minor incidents were speedily and effectively controlled. Observers noted a couple of instances in which one voter attempted to verbally intimidate or harass another; in both cases the offending elector was immediately removed by election officials. Gunshots were fired outside one polling site in St. Andrew South Eastern and voting was suspended for 30 minutes while security forces dealt with the incident. Nobody was hurt, however, and voting resumed shortly afterward.

A few voters suggested that fears about insecurity, fuelled by a few widely publicized incidents of violence in the run-up to Election Day, may have contributed to a low turn-out. Such speculations are impossible to verify but highlight the importance of visible and dependable

3. It is important to note, however, that this is not electronic voting. Citizens still mark a paper ballot creating a paper trail that is later verified.

security in the campaign period, particularly the final 48 hours, to mitigate voter anxieties that may be out of proportion to the real threat of unrest.

Access to polling stations for the physically challenged was difficult in some cases due to stairs, crowds, and other obstructions. Some polling stations were also unduly cramped. This problem was particularly reported by the team observing in Portland and Clarendon. One team of observers in Manchester Central and Southern reported that a few citizens complained that they had wanted to vote but lacked transport to reach the poll.

A subtler access issue is presented by the visible demonstration of party affiliations on Election Day. Voters often wear bright party colors and carry party membership cards. Those in the queue may therefore be difficult to distinguish from party agents inside the polling station. Voters also typically check their name on the voter list with either one of the party groups encamped outside the polling site. This is a matter of custom in Jamaica and the Mission observed primarily good-natured banter between rival party groups on Election Day, with only one group reporting dissatisfaction that counterparts were too close to the polling site itself. The Mission considers that the overtness of supporters from the two main parties may intimidate some voters.

Observers noted that a disproportionate number of electors were in the over-35 age group, suggesting that in Jamaica, as in many other countries, a significant proportion of young people are not sufficiently motivated to vote. Gender imbalance was also apparent in the election, with a majority of election workers and agents being female, while males dominated the lists of candidates. Some observers noted that the EOJ's slogan "one man, one vote", widely printed on t-shirts worn by election officials, while it could be interpreted as including both sexes, was not gender neutral.

Election officials were, on the whole, well trained and performed their duties impartially, efficiently and with pride in and commitment to their roles. Not all election officials were aware of what the OAS was, why it was observing elections, and how long observers might be allowed to stay in a polling station to observe it. However, teams were treated with cordiality and helpfulness even in those places where their role was not fully understood.

Observers in the field noted a handful of cases in which electoral officials were inexperienced and their need to consult instructions delayed voting. The handbook provided by the EOJ is, however, commendably thorough and the correct procedures were eventually identified and followed. Likewise there were occasional variations in practice – the most common being Presiding Officers forgetting to tear off the serial number from ballots before depositing them in the ballot box. None of these anomalies, however, was deemed deliberate or detrimental to the integrity and accuracy of the result.

The closing of the polls, the counting of ballots and the transmission of preliminary results were completed safely and conscientiously. A small number of recounts delayed confirmation of the final election result, but this reflected the very close nature of the contest rather than any inadequacy in the counting system. The overwhelming sentiment expressed by observers at the end of Election Day was that Jamaica had risen to the challenge of mounting peaceful and rigorous elections in the wake of Hurricane Dean.

C. POST-ELECTION PROCESS

The close result, in which the preliminary count indicated that the JLP had won 32 seats to the PNP's 28 seats, made for a tense post-election atmosphere. Portia Simpson-Miller, the Prime

Minister and leader of the PNP, refused initially to concede defeat, claiming irregularities on the part of JLP candidates and supporters. The re-counting process in a few seats was acrimonious, with recourse in the Hanover Eastern constituency to the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal over whether and how a recount should be conducted. This dispute lasted over three weeks after the election. A minor irregularity was revealed by the EOJ, in which two ballot boxes in the South East St. Mary constituency containing early votes by Election Day workers, had accidentally remained uncounted. This was remedied, however, and the result was unchanged. Ms. Simpson-Miller accepted the JLP victory in the days immediately following the election, after recounts fixed their tally of seats at 33 to the PNP's 27.

The PNP later filed court papers to have the election of two JLP candidates declared null and void, on the grounds that they were dual US-Jamaican citizens and thus ineligible to hold public office. Mr. Bruce Golding of the Jamaica Labour Party was sworn in as Prime Minister on September 11, 2007. However, given that legal verdicts have not yet been filed on the dual-nationality issue, questions regarding the final balance of PNP and JLP MPs in the House of Representatives continued in the national press at the time of writing this report.

CHAPTER V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. CONCLUSIONS

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission wishes to congratulate the people of Jamaica on the peaceful, orderly, and courteous conduct of the general election of September 3, 2007. The OAS Mission commends all those involved in the preparations for elections: the EOJ; the political parties; the police, for securing polling stations throughout the country; and civil society organizations involved in voter education and election observation. This, the first OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Jamaica, received a very warm welcome from all concerned in the electoral process, which both facilitated and enhanced the experience. There were relatively few areas in which the Mission felt that the electoral process in Jamaica could be improved. However, in the spirit of constructive engagement with the electoral authorities and political leaders of Jamaica, and as is customary in reports of this nature, the Mission would like to present the following observations and recommendations.

1. The Campaign

- i. Traditionally, campaigns in Jamaica last about two weeks. This campaign, however, officially lasted a total of eight weeks, taking into account the postponement of elections, and unofficial campaigning began nearly a year before Election Day. Many, including party representatives themselves, complained that the campaign was too long, too expensive and too acrimonious.
- ii. Currently, the electoral law prohibits parties from organizing campaign rallies in the final 24 hours of the campaign, but this prohibition does not include print and media campaigning which can intensify in the run-up to the poll, potentially contributing to escalating tensions between rival party supporters.

2. Campaign Finance

- i. The increasing cost of political campaigning in Jamaica, as elsewhere in the Caribbean, is a matter for considerable concern. There is no system in place for inspecting or auditing candidates' returns and expenditure limits are largely not enforced or disregarded. Political parties are not required to indicate funding sources or amounts spent.

3. Election Preparations

- i. The Electoral Office of Jamaica's preparations for the 2007 elections were rigorous, timely and effective. The work of the Election Center and the Political Ombudsman, which allowed participants from across the political spectrum to communicate grievances or anxieties in a neutral setting and to request and see quick action on security and election management, was of great value in securing a peaceful and constructive pre-election period.

4. Election Day

- i. Election Day was peaceful and, with very few exceptions, those eligible to vote were afforded their right to exercise their franchise. Voter identification was scrupulous, if often time-consuming.
- ii. Lines at polling stations were rendered longer than may have been necessary due to uneven distribution of voters between polling stations, often at the same polling site. The Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS) worked well and inspired confidence in officials and voters alike. Where EVIBIS was not present, the Black Book method of verifying the many voters who did not bring ID cards proved crucial in guaranteeing voter franchise. This method, however, proved to be time consuming and contributed to delays and long lines.
- iii. Access to polling stations for the physically challenged was difficult in many places. Some polling stations were also too cramped. In a few, predominantly rural polling stations, voters had difficulty in getting transport to the polls. On the whole, however, those who wished to vote could do so.
- iv. Women are extremely active and visible in running elections in Jamaica. The Mission noted that a high percentage of election officials and party agents were female. However, relatively few women run for office. Twenty-one female candidates were nominated to compete for seats in the 2007 general election and eight won their constituencies. This marks a very small increase in the number of female MPs, previously seven in number. According to figures produced by Amnesty International, in 2005 women made up only 7 percent of mayors, only 17.6 percent of cabinet ministers, and only 11.7 percent of members of parliament.⁴ It is evident that Jamaica still has a long way to go in ensuring that women are equally represented in political roles and that political talent is fostered regardless of gender.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Campaign

- i. Electoral law prohibits parties from organizing campaign rallies in the final 24 hours of the campaign. The Mission believes all forms of campaigns, including print and electronic media, should be included in this prohibition.
- ii. Political and electoral authorities might consider the constitution of a Media Monitoring Unit to follow and analyze campaign coverage as well as party-political advertising to increase awareness of appropriate norms and boundaries in campaign literature, broadcasting, and related journalism, to foster balance and promote civility in political debate.

4. Amnesty International, *Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Jamaica: Just a Little Sex*, June 22 2006, page 7.

2. Campaign Finance

- i. In Jamaica, there are few legislative requirements to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures. Where legislation does exist, it pertains to the candidate and not to the party, making it easy to obviate restrictions and disclosure requirements. This situation is unsatisfactory in the context of safeguarding the democratic process from undue influence by corporate and transnational interests and the maintenance of a political system in which all can compete equally and fairly. Both major parties have recently affirmed their intention to address this glaring issue: the PNP in 2006 by proposing a Joint Select Committee of Parliament to discuss party funding and the JLP by proposing as part of its 2007 manifesto pledge to 'enact, in consultation with the Electoral Commission, legislation to regulate the financial operation of political parties'. A 2002 resolution had called for the establishment of a national commission to examine and make recommendations for registering political parties and providing them with public funding to counter the threat of corruption. Political parties should review the conclusions of the EAC-organized conference of July 2006 and subsequent Senate submission and work to implement a meaningful and enforceable reform of Jamaica's political party and campaign finance regime before the next general elections. The participation of Bruce Golding (JLP) and Trevor Monroe (PNP) in the OAS's 2005 study into party and campaign finance reform in the Caribbean shows that bipartisan support and agreement on this issue is achievable. The OAS restated its willingness earlier in 2007 to assist in this process and remains ready to lend its good offices.

3. Election Preparations

- i. The Mission was particularly impressed with the structure and functioning of the Election Center. Representatives of the political parties were provided with a permanent, private forum to express their concerns and request immediate action of the electoral and security authorities. Where it was deemed appropriate, immediate and effective action was indeed taken (for example, to cancel a rally in a volatile area) and this both served to reduce actual and potential tensions and to increase the confidence of all stakeholders in the electoral process. The Electoral Center included among its members the national observation mission as well as the OAS Electoral Observation Mission. This Center could represent a model for other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.

4. Election Day

- i. Lines at polling stations could be reduced in a number of ways, minimizing waiting time for voters and maximizing the efficiency of election workers. Firstly, efforts should be made to achieve a more even spread of registered voters among the polling stations, making at the same time, every attempt not to disrupt citizens' original voting sites. A better spread of registered voters amongst polling stations, especially within larger polling sites, would reduce instances in which one polling station had long lines while another stood idle. Secondly, since some delays are attributable to voters arriving without ID cards and undergoing a series of verbal checks. The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) may wish to consider the use of other documents for identification such as a passport or driver license. Though the Mission recognizes that the technology is expensive, electoral authorities should consider implementing the EVIBIS system in a greater number of polling stations.
- ii. The Mission recommends improving polling sites and polling arrangements for physically challenged voters to enable ready access for all voters. Likewise, the accessibility of polling sites to rural voters should be considered and adequate transport assured that is independent of party agency.

- iii. Political parties should actively consider and pursue mechanisms to recruit, train and finance women to be candidates for public office. Disaggregating electoral data to establish the numbers of women and youth voters and electoral officials would be a useful step in quantifying relative participation rates and considering which groups are under-represented at different stages of the electoral process and why. The technology of the voter registry has already captured this information and it should be easy to obtain, analyze and publicize it.
- iv. The OAS EOM welcomes the commitment of political party leaders to the Code of Conduct enshrining the principles of nonviolence and non-intimidation, avoidance of inflammatory utterances, avoidance of political tribalism, and commitment to a code of ethics in political life. Jamaica has made painstaking progress in tackling the problems that have historically beset its electoral process. However, more can be done to reduce negative and hostile political tactics before, during, and after elections and the Mission calls upon all stakeholders to promote a more inclusive and constructive cross-party politics in Jamaica and to foster unity and amity in the post-election period.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I. LETTER OF INVITATION

EAC MEMBERS

Prof. The Hon E. Miller
OJ, CD
CHAIRMAN

Dr. Herbert Thompson
CD
SELECTED
COMMISSIONER

Mrs. D. Pina-McLary
SELECTED
COMMISSIONER

Justice Clarence Walker
CD
SELECTED
COMMISSIONER

Min. Donald Buchanan
NOMINATED
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Linton A. Walters
NOMINATED
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Karl Samuda CD
NOMINATED
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Tom Tavares-Finson
NOMINATED
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Danville Walker
NOMINATED
COMMISSIONER



ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF JAMAICA
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Snr. Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary General
Unit For Promotion of Democracy
Organization of American States
1889 F Street NW
Washington D.C 2006

July 24th, 2007

Dear Snr. Insulza

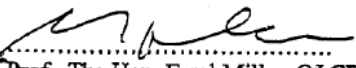
Date For Jamaica's General Elections

As you will recall my letter to you of July 12th, 2007 indicated that the announcement of General Elections was imminent. I am now advising you that the Prime Minister of Jamaica, The Most Honorable Portia Simpson-Miller has announced that Jamaicans will go to the Polls on Monday, August 27th, 2007 for the General Elections and the date for Nomination of Candidates will be Tuesday, August 7th, 2007. We look forward to having your representatives among the international observers in the process.

We wish you to confirm if your organization will be sending observers to participate in the International Observer Mission.

With every good wish.

Yours truly,


Prof. The Hon. Errol Miller OJ,CD
Chairman

Electoral Commission of Jamaica

APPENDIX II. LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

August 15, 2007

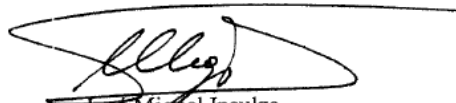
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 5, 2007, inviting the Organization of American States to send a team to observe the General Elections in Jamaica, now scheduled for August 27 of this year. To this end, I have instructed the Secretariat for Political Affairs to draft a proposal for a mission that will allow for observation of the pre-electoral process and provide for ample coverage on Election Day.

I have taken the liberty of sending this response through the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the Organization of American States in order that they may be apprised of our preparations.

I am pleased to inform that I have designated Ambassador Albert Ramdin, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS as Chief of the Electoral Observation Mission to Jamaica. Ambassador Ramdin will be arriving in Jamaica on August 15th for a preparatory visit and will travel for the Electoral Observation Mission from August 24-29, 2007.

Sincerely,


 José Miguel Insulza
 Secretary General

Professor
 Errol Miller O.J., C.D.
 Chairman
 Electoral Commission of Jamaica
 Kingston, Jamaica

cc: Mr. Dante Caputo, Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs
 Mr. Pablo Gutierrez, Director, Department for the Promotion of Democracy
 Ms. Joan Neill, OAS Representative in Jamaica

APPENDIX III. AGREEMENT ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES
OF THE 2007 GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN JAMAICA

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES
OF THE GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS IN JAMAICA**

The Parties to this Agreement, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "GS/OAS") and the Government of Jamaica, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Government")

WHEREAS:

On July 5, 2007, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, through the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the OAS, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "OAS" or the "Organization") to observe the General Elections to be held in Jamaica in 2007.

The Secretary General of the OAS, in a letter dated August 15, 2007, informed the Government that he accepted the invitation to establish an Electoral Observer Mission (hereinafter referred to as the "OAS Observer Mission") for these elections, subject to obtaining the necessary resources to finance the establishment of the OAS Observer Mission in Jamaica,

The OAS Observer Mission will be comprised of officials and/or persons contracted at GS/OAS headquarters, as well as other international observers specifically under contract to the GS/OAS for the OAS Observer Mission.

The basic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the OAS, the GS/OAS, and its staff in Jamaica are set out in the Charter of the Organization and in the Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Functioning in Kingston of the Office of the Secretariat in Jamaica, signed by the parties on March 12, 1971.

NOW, THEREFORE:

The GS/OAS and the Government

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I:

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

ARTICLE I

1.1 The privileges and immunities of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those accorded to the OAS, to the GS/OAS, to their organs, and to their staff.

ARTICLE II

2.1. The property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, located in any part of the territory of Jamaica and in possession of any person, shall enjoy immunity against any type of judicial proceeding; save in those specific cases for which said immunity is expressly waived in writing by the Secretary General of the OAS.

2.2 However, it is understood that said waiver of immunity by the Secretary General of the OAS shall not have the effect of subjecting any such property and effects to any type of measure of execution.

ARTICLE III

3.1 The premises occupied by the OAS Observer Mission shall be inviolable.

3.2 Moreover, the property and effects of the OAS Observer Mission, in any part of the territory of Jamaica and in possession of any person or entity, shall enjoy immunity against search and seizure, confiscation, expropriation and against any form of intervention, be it executive, administrative, judicial or legislative.

ARTICLE IV

4.1 The files of the OAS Observer Mission and all of the documents pertaining thereto or in the possession of any person or entity shall be inviolable wherever they are located.

ARTICLE V

5.1 The OAS Observer Mission shall be:

- a) exempt from any internal taxation, it being understood, however, that they may not claim any type of tax exemption that is in fact remuneration for public services;
- b) exempt from any type of customs duty, prohibition and restriction in respect of articles and publications that they may import or export for their official use. It is understood, however, that the articles they import duty-free may be sold within Jamaica only in accordance with conditions expressly agreed upon by the GS/OAS with the Government; and
- c) exempt from ordinances, regulations or moratoria of any kind. Moreover, they may have currency of any type, carry their accounts in any foreign currency and transfer their funds in foreign currency.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERS OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION

ARTICLE VI

6.1 The members of the OAS Observer Mission shall be those persons who have been designated by the GS/OAS and accredited with the authorities of Jamaica.

ARTICLE VII

7.1 For the period during which the members of the OAS Observer Mission exercise their functions and during their trips to and from Jamaica, they shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a) Immunity from personal detention or arrest as well as immunity from any type of legal proceeding in respect of their actions and statements, be they oral or written, done in the performance of their functions;
- b) The inviolability of all papers and documents;
- c) The right to communicate with the GS/OAS via radio, telephone, fax, email, satellite or other means, and to receive documents and correspondence through messengers or in sealed pouches, enjoying for that purpose the same privileges and immunities accorded to diplomatic mail, messages, and pouches;
- d) The right to utilize for their movements throughout the national territory, any means of transportation, be it by air, by water or over land; provided however that travel by air is subject to pre-clearance from the relevant authorities. Such pre-clearance is for the sole purpose of securing the safety of Mission personnel and Jamaican citizens and shall not be applied to prejudice the independence of the Mission in any way;
- e) Exemption in respect of their persons and that of their spouses and children, from any type of immigration restriction and registration of aliens and any type of national service in Jamaica;
- f) The same privileges accorded to the representatives of foreign governments on official mission in respect to foreign-currency restrictions;
- g) The same immunities and privileges in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and
- h) Such other privileges, immunities and facilities as are compatible with the foregoing, and enjoyed by diplomatic envoys, with the exception that they shall not enjoy any exemption from customs duties on imported merchandise (that is not part of their personal effects) or sales taxes or consumer taxes.

ARTICLE VIII

8.1 The provisions contained in the preceding Article do not apply to nationals of Jamaica working as local contract staff in the OAS Observer Mission, except in respect of official acts performed or statements issued in the exercise of their functions.

ARTICLE IX

9.1 The OAS Observer Mission may establish and operate in the territory of Jamaica an independent radio communication system to provide an on-going communications link between the observers and the vehicles used by the members of the OAS Observer Mission with Mission offices and regional headquarters, such as the central office in Kingston and between the latter and the headquarters of the GS/OAS in Washington, D.C., United States of America. The Government shall provide all the technical and administrative support necessary for this to be achieved.

CHAPTER III

COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES

ARTICLE X

10.1 The OAS Observer Mission shall cooperate with the relevant authorities of Jamaica to prevent any occurrence of abuse in respect of the specified privileges and immunities. Subject to financial and technical constraints as determined by the Government of Jamaica, the relevant authorities of Jamaica will cooperate fully with the OAS Observer Mission.

ARTICLE XI

11.1 Without prejudice to the immunities and privileges accorded, the members of the OAS Observer Mission shall respect the laws and regulations existing in Jamaica.

ARTICLE XII

12.1 The Government and the GS/OAS shall take any measures necessary to procure an amicable arrangement in the proper settlement of:

- a) Any disputes that may arise in contracts or other questions of private law;
- b) Any disputes to which the OAS Observer Mission and/or any of its members may be parties with respect to matters in which they enjoy immunity.

CHAPTER IV

NATURE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

ARTICLE XIII

13.1 The privileges and immunities are granted to the members of the OAS Observer Mission in order to safeguard their independence in the exercise of their functions of observing the General Election Process of Jamaica and not for personal gain or to perform activities of a political nature within the territory of Jamaica.

13.2 The Secretary General of the OAS may waive the privileges and immunities of any of the members of the OAS Observer Mission in the event that he determines, in his sole discretion, that the exercise of those privileges and immunities may obstruct the course of justice and so long as the Secretary General determines that such waiver does not prejudice the interests of the OAS or of the GS/OAS.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XIV

14.1 The Government recognizes the "Official Travel Document" issued by the GS/OAS as a valid and sufficient document for purposes of travel by the members of the OAS Observer Mission who possess this document.

14.2 The Government shall where necessary issue to each member of the OAS Observer Mission a visa to enter the country and to remain therein until the end of the OAS Observer Mission.

ARTICLE XV

15.1 The Government agrees to extend the privileges and immunities of the present Agreement to members of the OAS Observer Mission designated by the GS/OAS, who have been accredited by the authorities of Jamaica.

15.2 Nationals of Jamaica will not enjoy the privileges and immunities contemplated in this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in writing by the duly authorized representatives of the Government and of the GS/OAS.

ARTICLE XVII

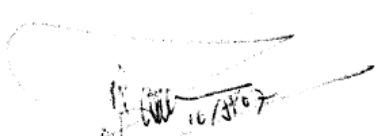
This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall cease to have effect once the members of the OAS Observer Mission have completed their mission, in accordance with the terms of the request made by the Government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized, do hereby sign this Agreement, in duplicate, on the date and locations indicated below.

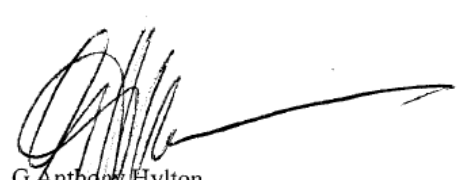
Done in English in the City of Kingston, on this 16th day of August, in the year Two Thousand and Seven.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
JAMAICA



Albert Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General



G. Anthony Hylton
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade

APPENDIX IV. AGREEMENT ON THE OBSERVATION PROCESS

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES**

AND

**THE ELECTORAL OFFICE OF JAMAICA
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS**

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
AND
THE ELECTORAL OFFICE OF JAMAICA
ON THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION PROCESS OF AUGUST 27, 2007**

The Parties, the Electoral Office of Jamaica (hereinafter referred to as "EOJ") and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "General Secretariat");

CONSIDERING:

THAT on the 5th day of July 2007, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, through its Chairman, invited the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary General") to send an Electoral Observation Mission (hereinafter referred to as "the Mission") to Jamaica for the purpose of witnessing the general election of the Members of Parliament to be held on August 27, 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the "General Elections");

THAT in Resolution AG/RES. 991 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the OAS recommended to the Secretary General that "when a member state so requests in the exercise of its sovereignty, missions should be organized and sent to said state to monitor the development, if possible at all stages, of each of its electoral processes,"

THAT Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states in pertinent part as follows:

The electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned. To that end, the government of that state and the Secretary General shall enter into an agreement establishing the scope and coverage of the electoral observation mission in question. The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission.

Electoral observation missions shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and norms of the OAS. The Organization shall ensure that these missions are effective and independent and shall provide them with the necessary resources for that purpose. They shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with the appropriate technical expertise.; and

THAT in a letter dated [...], the Secretary General responded affirmatively to the Government's request to send the Mission with the objective of observing the General Elections of 2007;

WHEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

First: Guarantees

- a) The EOJ guarantees the Mission access to all facilities for the adequate fulfillment of the observation of the elections in 2007 until conclusion of the General Election process in Jamaica, in conformity with the relevant laws and standards of Jamaica and the terms of this Agreement;
- b) The EOJ, on the day of and after the day of the elections, shall guarantee the Mission access to all polling stations and other locations and facilities related to the election until the official count is tabulated nationally and the General Election process is concluded;
- c) The EOJ shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the locations in which the process of counting and tabulating votes will take place both before and during this process.

Second: Information

- a) The EOJ will furnish the Mission with all information referring to the organization, direction and supervision of the electoral process. The Mission may request of the EOJ such additional information as is necessary for the exercise of the Mission's functions, and the EOJ shall promptly furnish all such information;

b) The Mission may inform the EOJ about any irregularities and/or interference, which the Mission might observe or of which the Mission might learn. Similarly, the Mission may request that the EOJ provide any information regarding the measures which the EOJ will take in relation to such irregularities, and the EOJ shall promptly furnish all such information;

c) The EOJ shall provide the Mission with information related to the electoral list and other electoral data referring to the same. Similarly, the EOJ shall provide all other information relative to the computer systems used on Election Day, and shall offer demonstrations of the systems' operation to the Mission;

d) The EOJ shall guarantee the Mission access to all electoral bodies responsible for vote counting and tabulation. Similarly, the EOJ shall permit the Mission to conduct any evaluations deemed necessary by the Mission of the voting system and of the communications utilized to transmit electoral results. At the same time, the EOJ shall guarantee the Mission complete access to the complaints process and quality controls that occur before and after the electoral process that are of interest to the Mission.

e) The EOJ further guarantees the Mission access to all polling stations and other bodies throughout the national territory of Jamaica. Upon request of the Mission, the EOJ guarantees to make available by the end of the voting process and, before the closing of the polling stations, copies of all documents printed electronically.

Third: General Provisions

a) The Secretary General will designate a Chief of Mission, to represent the Mission and its members before the EOJ and before the Government;

b) The GS/OAS will communicate to the leadership of the EOJ the names of the persons who will comprise the Mission, who will be duly identified;

c) The Mission will act impartially, objectively and independently in the fulfillment of its mandate;

d) The General Secretariat will send to the leadership of the EOJ a copy of the final report of the Electoral Observation Mission following the General Elections in Jamaica;

Handwritten signature and initials in the bottom right corner of the page.

e) The EOJ will make known and disseminate the contents of this Agreement among all electoral bodies and among all personnel involved in the electoral process.

Fourth: Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the OAS or the General Secretariat or that any of their organs may enjoy under the Charter of the Organization, the Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the Functioning of the Office of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and Recognition of Its Privileges and Immunities, signed by the parties on September 26, 1986, the Agreement between the General Secretariat and the Government in relation to the privileges and immunities of each of the members of the group of observers of the election process in Jamaica signed by the Parties on the XXXth day of August, 2007, or under international law.

Fifth: Resolution of controversies

The Parties shall attempt to resolve through direct negotiations any disputes arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement. If the negotiations do not result in the resolution of the dispute, the matter shall be submitted to dispute resolution procedure mutually agreed to by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

Sixth: Amendments

Amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties and attached hereto.

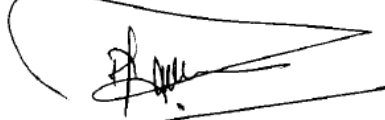
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Agreement in duplicate on the date and locations indicated below.

FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF

FOR THE ELECTORAL OFFICE
OF JAMAICA



AMERICAN STATES



Albert R. Ramdin
OAS Assistant Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington D.C.

Date: 08.15.07



Mr. Darville Walker
Chief Elections Officer
Electoral Office of Jamaica
Kingston, Jamaica

Date: 8/15/07



APPENDIX V. LIST OF OBSERVERS AND DEPLOYMENT ASSIGNMENTS

OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION 2007 General Elections - Jamaica Deployment Schedule		
TEAM	NATIONALITY	CONSTITUENCIES
TEAM 1		
Kingsley Layne	St. Vincent	3.7 WESTMORELAND WESTERN
Gaston Ain	Argentina	3.8 WESTMORELAND CENTRAL
		3.9 WESTMORELAND EASTERN
TEAM 2		
Mark Kirton	Guyana	3.4 ST. JAMES SOUTHERN
		3.5 HANOVER EASTERN
		3.6 HANOVER WESTERN
		2.5 TRELAWNY NORTH
TEAM 3		
Jean Ricot Dormeus	Haiti	3.1 ST. JAMES EAST CENTRAL
Anne Marie Blackman	Barbados	3.2 ST. JAMES NORTH WESTERN
		3.3 ST. JAMES WEST CENTRAL
TEAM 4		
Cristina Gutierrez	Bolivia	2.3 ST ANN NORTH WESTERN
Cynthia Barrow-Giles	St. Lucia	2.4 ST ANN SOUTH WESTERN
		2.5 TRELAWNY NORTHERN
		2.6 TRELAWNY SOUTHERN
TEAM 5		
Jose Labarca	Chile	1.6 ST. MARY CENTRAL
Paul Wander	Canada	1.7 ST. MARY WESTERN
		2.2 ST. ANN NORTH EASTERN
		2.3 ST ANN NORTH WESTERN
		2.1 ST. ANN SOUTH EASTERN
TEAM 6		
Denise Antonie	Grenada	1.3 PORTLAND EASTERN
Sharan Singh	Trinidad	1.4 PORTLAND WESTERN
		1.5 ST. MARY SOUTH EASTERN
TEAM 7		
Roget Bryan	Trinidad	4.2 ST. ELIZABETH NORTH EASTERN
Jean Joseph Estime	Canada	4.3 ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH WESTERN
		4.4 ST. ELIZABETH SOUTH EASTERN
TEAM 8		
Shannan Johnston	Canada	4.7 MANCHESTER NORTH CENTRAL
Jeff Johnston	Canada	4.8 MANCHESTER NORTH EASTERN
		5.1 CLARENDON NORTH WESTERN
		5.2 CLARENDON NORTHERN
TEAM 9		
Lorraine Belisle	Canada	4.5 MANCHESTER SOUTHERN
Pierre David	Canada	4.6 MANCHESTER CENTRAL
		5.5 CLARENDON SOUTH WESTERN

OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION 2007 General Elections - Jamaica Deployment Schedule		
TEAM	NATIONALITY	CONSTITUENCIES
TEAM 10		
Sheena Zuniga	Colombia	5.3 CLARENDON NORTH CENTRAL
Martha Nunez	Colombia	5.4 CLARENDON CENTRAL
		5.6 CLARENDON SOUTH EASTERN
		6.1 ST. CATHERINE NORTH WESTERN
		6.7 ST. CATHERINE WEST CENTRAL
		6.2 ST. CATHERINE SOUTH WESTERN
TEAM 11		
Jessica Byron	St. Kitts and Nevis	6.8 ST. CATHERINE NORTH EASTERN
Lucy Eugene	Trinidad	6.6 ST. CATHERINE EAST CENTRAL
		6.4 ST. CATHERINE CENTRAL**
TEAM 12		
Filomena Navarro	Dominican Republic	6.9 ST. CATHERINE SOUTH CENTRAL
Laury Lamothe	Dominican Republic	6.3 ST. CATHERINE SOUTHERN
Lina Maria Gomez	Dominican Republic	6.4 ST. CATHERINE CENTRAL **
TEAM 13		
Gillian Apfel	United States	7.9 ST. ANDREW EAST RURAL
Hester Dredge	United States	
TEAM 14		
Christiana Foreman	United States	7.1 ST. ANDREW WEST RURAL
Susan Wilson	United States	
TEAM 15		
Chris Healy	Suriname	7.2 ST. ANDREW WEST CENTRAL
Javier Montes	Bolivia	7.3 ST. ANDREW EAST CENTRAL
		8.3 KINGSTON EAST PORT ROYAL
		8.4 ST. ANDREW WESTERN
		8.5 ST. ANDREW SOUTH WESTERN
		8.6 ST. ANDREW SOUTH
TEAM 16		
Steven Griner	United States	7.4 ST. ANDREW SOUTH EASTERN
Sara Lodge	United Kingdom	7.6 ST. ANDREW NORTH EASTERN
		7.8 ST. ANDREW NORTH WESTERN
		7.7 ST. ANDREW NORTH CENTRAL
TEAM 17		
Chief of Mission	Suriname	8.1 KINGSTON WESTERN
Garvin Pettier	Trinidad	8.2 KINGSTON CENTRAL
		8.3 KINGSTON EAST & PORT ROYAL
TEAM 18		
Jo Seaman	United Kingdom	1.1 ST. THOMAS WESTERN
Emily Hardy	United Kingdom	1.2 ST. THOMAS EASTERN
TEAM 19		
Brian Peterson	United States	7.5 ST. ANDREW EASTERN
Lesley Hayden	United States	8.2 KINGSTON CENTRAL

APPENDIX VI. FORMS COMPLETED BY OBSERVERS



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION JAMAICA

General Elections
Monday September 3, 2007

OPENING OF THE POLL

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY _____

POLLING STATION (NUMBER) _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE _____

Arrived _____ Departed _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____

Number of ballots cast while observer was at the polling station _____

People in line _____

OPENING

1. Did the Presiding Officer ensure that all required signs and notices including Official Voters List and Directions to Electors were placed outside the Polling Station prior to the Opening of the Poll?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Did the Polling Station open at 7 a.m.? Yes _____ No _____
If not at what time did it open? _____

3. Did the presiding officer check the number of ballots and confirm the serial numbers?

Yes _____ No _____

4. Did the presiding officer give copies to polling agents of the certificate, signed by the Returning Officer, setting out the serial numbers of the ballots to be used?

Yes _____ No _____

5. Did this polling station have the Electronic Voter Identification and Ballot Issuing System (EVIBIS)?

Yes _____ No _____

6. Were polling agents of all candidates present?

Yes _____ No _____

7. Did the Presiding Officer show that the Ballot Box was empty before starting the voting?

Yes _____ No _____

8. Were procedures generally followed in Opening the Polling Station?

Yes _____ No _____

9. Was the Polling Station at its original location?

Yes _____ No _____

If NO, Specify:

10. Unauthorized persons were inside the Polling Station

Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, who? _____

11. Choose one of the three:

- a. No Security problems affecting the polling were observed.
- b. Security problems affecting the polling were reported but not observed.
Specify. _____

- c. Security problems affecting the polling were observed. Specify. _____



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
JAMAICA**

General Elections
Monday September 3, 2007

OBSERVATION OF VOTING

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY _____

POLLING STATION (NUMBER) _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE _____

Arrived _____ left _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____ Number of ballots that had already been cast
at the time of observer's visit 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ People in line _____

1. Were all the electoral materials available? Yes _____ No _____
If not what materials were missing?
 a. Ballot papers _____ b. Ink _____
 c. Copies of the register of electors _____ d. Ballot box _____
 e. Poll Book _____ f. Integrity lamp _____

2. Did the polling station open on time? Yes _____ No _____

If not, state why and when it did open (use reverse side of form)

3. Were the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk present? Yes _____ No _____

If not, state who was absent and why (use reverse side of form)

4. Did the polling station have the EVIBIS system? Yes _____ No _____

If so, were the procedures properly followed?

5. Was the ballot box at any time removed from the Presiding Officer's table?

Yes _____ No _____

If Yes state the circumstances under which the ballot box was removed _____

6. Did the Presiding Officer remove the counterfoil from the ballot paper?

Yes _____ No _____

7. Did the Presiding Officer initial the ballot(s) before giving to the elector(s)?

Yes _____ No _____

8. Was a police officer present at the polling station?

Yes _____ No _____

9. Were party agents present at polling site?

Yes _____ No _____

If not, which party was not present? _____

10. Was the secrecy of vote maintained?

Yes _____ No _____

If not, explain on reverse side.

11. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks follow the proper voting procedures?

Yes _____ No _____

12. Was the identity of the voters properly checked?

Yes _____ No _____

13. Did any voter(s) observed not have proof of ID?

Yes _____ No _____

If 'Yes', were they allowed to vote? (Please describe on reverse side of form)

14. Did the Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks provide impartial instructions to the voter?

Yes _____ No _____ If not, explain on reverse side of form.

10. Did the observer notice or receive any information about incidents and/or irregularities in or near the polling station? If so, explain on reverse side.

Yes _____ No _____

11. Was the presence of an armed individual or individuals (other than police or soldiers) observed?

Yes _____ No _____

12. Did the observer notice or receive any information about intimidation of voters?

Yes _____ No _____

13. Did the observers meet other observers (international or national)?

Yes _____ No _____ Which ones? _____

14. Was proper assistance given to physically challenged voters?

Yes _____ No _____ Not observed _____

15. How many voters at your polling station indicated that they had encountered problems in determining or arriving at the correct polling station?

16. What is your overall assessment of the voting process? Please provide specific comments, both positive and negative - the more specifics the better.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION
JAMAICA
General Elections
Monday September 3, 2007**

CLOSING OF THE POLL

NAME OF OBSERVER _____

ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY _____

POLLING STATION (NUMBER) _____

ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION / PLACE _____

Arrived _____ Departed _____ Total time of observation _____

Number of voters on the voter list _____ Number of ballots cast _____

1. Did the polling station close on time at 5:00 pm? Yes _____ No _____
2. Were there voters in line at 5:00 pm? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, were they allowed to vote? Yes _____ No _____
3. Were closing procedures followed? Yes _____ No _____
If not, explain on reverse side of form.
4. Were security officers (Police) present at the closure of the Poll?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Were agents of parties present in the Polling Station at the closing of the Poll?
Yes _____ No _____

6. Did you observe problems at the close of poll?

Yes _____ No _____

Please add comments (including any incidents at the closure of the poll) below and on the reverse side of this form. Please describe in detail what you've observed – the more specifics the better.

APPENDIX VII. PRESS RELEASES



Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Press Release

(E--07)

August 14, 2007

OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL TO ARRIVE IN JAMAICA

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Albert R. Ramdin, will be in Kingston, Jamaica from August 15-17, to hold talks with government leaders, electoral authorities and representatives from the different political sectors competing in that country's August 27 General Elections.

During his three-day visit, Ramdin, who was named Chief of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission by Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, will sign an agreement -pertaining to the electoral process itself- with the Director of Elections, Danville Walker. Another agreement which sets out the terms of reference as well as privileges and immunities to be accorded the OAS team observing this month's elections will be signed with Foreign Minister Anthony Hylton.

While in Jamaica, the Assistant Secretary General will hold a series of meetings including with Governor General, Kenneth Hall; the General Secretary of the Peoples' National Party (PNP), Donald Buchanan and representatives of the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), National Democratic Movement (NDM), Citizens Action for Free and Fair Election (CAFFE) and the Political Ombudsman, Bishop Herro Blair.

In addition he will meet with the Diplomatic Corps, who are representatives of the OAS member states resident in Jamaica at a breakfast meeting, hosted by the United States Ambassador, Brenda LaGrange Johnson, at her residence on August 16.

Ramdin, together with Jamaica's Electoral Office, will offer a joint press conference on Wednesday afternoon at 6:00 pm at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The Assistant Secretary General emphasized that the OAS intends to collaborate with the Jamaican authorities in their effort to carry out these elections in a normal, transparent manner. Ramdin said he is convinced that the next elections will follow the same course of other electoral processes that have recently taken place in the region.

"Electoral observation is one of the fundamental roles of the Organization of American States, and the presence of the international community during this process will reinforce that country's commitment to guaranteeing transparency in this vital exercise of popular expression," said the Assistant Secretary General.

*General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Department of Press & Communications
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6194 Fax: (202) 458-6421*



Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Press Release

(E-194-07)

August 16, 2007

OAS EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN PROGRESS OF JAMAICAN ELECTORAL PROCESS

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, concluded today a two-day visit to Kingston, Jamaica, expressing his full confidence in the progress of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming August 27 General Elections.

After signing an agreement between the OAS and the Electoral Office of Jamaica, Ramdin, who is heading the OAS monitoring team, praised the country's electoral authorities for their "great efforts in preparation and organization in advance of these elections", and thanked them for their support of the mission.

Ramdin noted that the agreement establishes the objectives and procedures for the observer's activities and guarantees access so they can carry out their duties on Election Day. A separate agreement outlining the privileges and immunities granted to the observers was also signed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Anthony Hylton.

In addition, Ramdin met with the different political actors in this process, and underscored their "complete confidence in the presence of international observers in Jamaica," adding that "this will help strengthen the country's democratic process."

The OAS Electoral Observation Mission will begin its work in Jamaica on Monday, and Ambassador Ramdin will return to the country on August 24 to oversee the lead-up and post electoral activities.

He called on all citizens to contribute to "a peaceful and calm environment and to carry out their civic duty at the polls in an orderly fashion."

*General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Department of Press & Communications
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6194 Fax: (202) 458-6421*



Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Press Release

(E-200-07)

August 23, 2007

OAS ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION IN JAMAICA DELAYS INITIAL START DATE DUE TO HURRICANE DEAN

Following the official announcement by Jamaican government leaders to postpone the General Elections to September 3, the Organization of American States (OAS) today began deploying a team of international observers to monitor the electoral process in that country. Governor General Kenneth Hall and Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller explained that the decision to move the balloting date was made due to the severe impact of Hurricane Dean.

OAS Assistant Secretary Albert Ramdin, who heads the electoral observation team, conveyed the solidarity of the Organization of American States to the government and people of Jamaica. "The entire inter-American community expresses sympathy during this moment of hardship, and we will continue to support the humanitarian efforts underway in the areas that have suffered heavy damages and loss," he said.

Ramdin noted that the hemispheric organization had to revisit the preparations for the arrival of members of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission and announced that after continued consultations with the Director of Elections, Danville Walker, the first group of monitors will arrive tomorrow, August 24, followed by a second group on August 27, and the last on August 31.

The Assistant Secretary General will arrive in Kingston on August 30. Ramdin reiterated his confidence in the preparation efforts of the Electoral Office of Jamaica to guarantee an orderly conduct of these elections. Underscoring the critical impact to that country's infrastructure, he expressed hope "that everything will be done by the electoral authorities to have the polling stations up and working in order for the people of Jamaica to be able to exercise their fundamental duty."

Ramdin added that he hopes "the men and women of the Caribbean nation will overcome this difficult situation and demonstrate, as they have in the past, their strong commitment to go to the polls and elect their leaders in a peaceful and calm environment."

*General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Department of Press & Communications
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6194 Fax: (202) 458-6421*



Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Press Release

(OAS-JAM 2)

September 1, 2007

OAS: JAMAICA READY FOR ELECTIONS THIS MONDAY

KINGSTON, Jamaica— The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Chief of the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Jamaica, Albert R. Ramdin, said today that the electoral authorities have addressed and overcome the challenges presented by the damages inflicted by Hurricane Dean and that the nation is ready to hold its General Elections this Monday.

Ambassador Ramdin also welcomed the joint call made yesterday by the political parties for an immediate end to all acts of political violence. In this regard, the head of the OAS monitoring team noted that as Election Day quickly approaches, he hopes that “all social and political actors in the country, as well as the citizenship in general, will actively participate in the electoral process, heeding to democratic values and practices such as respect, tolerance and dialogue, rather than resort to acts of violence to resolve their differences.”

The OAS Chief of Mission urged Jamaican citizens to go to the polls on Monday in a peaceful and orderly manner, saying that “in a democracy, the vote is a privilege and a responsibility.” Ramdin added that the presence of international observers for Monday’s election “strengthens confidence in the country’s democratic process.” He underscored that the main purpose of the OAS Mission is to observe that elections are carried out in accordance with international norms that ensure the integrity of the process.

In the days leading up to the elections, the OAS has been meeting with different participants in the process, with the view of incorporating their concerns and comments in the verbal report that the Electoral Observation Mission is expected to present to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington on Thursday September 6.

The Assistant Secretary General met with electoral authorities, religious and civil society leaders, and representatives from the media including, Errol Miller, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica; Sheila Nicholson, Executive Director of People’s Action for Community Transformation; and Reverend Karl Johnson, President of the Jamaican Council of Churches. He also held a series of meetings with members of the Diplomatic Corps based in Jamaica and the CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission.

The 38 OAS observers, who come from 13 different countries, have now spread out across the country, and they will monitor the voting in at least forty-two percent of Jamaica’s sixty constituencies. Prior to their deployment, they completed an extensive training session, which included OAS observation methodology and the international code of conduct for observers, among other topics. During this exercise, the Director of Elections, Danville Walker, also briefed the OAS team on all aspects of the electoral process of Jamaica.

For more information, please contact Javier Montes. Telephone in Jamaica: (876) 407-9396.

*General Secretariat of the Organization of American States
Department of Press & Communications
17th St. & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6194 Fax: (202) 458-6421*