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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tobago CivilNET joins Civil Society in decrying the rise of violent crimes in the nation, especially in the historically peaceful social environment of Tobago. CivilNET views these violent crimes as an attack against the social infrastructure launched mostly by a minority who travel the ‘fast street-life’ lane designated for instant gratification of illicit material gains. We know that most Tobagonians are decent people striving for decent and honest lives. We applaud all those in our communities that resist the pull of the easy money and illegal, immoral activities. We celebrate those brave souls that expose the criminal elements in their communities. Together, we Tobagonians, with the help of our partners, can solve this crime problem.

Tobago CivilNET is doing its part in this endeavor. We saw this violent crime-wave approaching in February 2024, and have been working to spark island-wide discussion on the issue and ways to solve it by bringing experts to Tobago to guide us in examination of the solutions to the crime using a public health approach. We have developed this in the form of a seminar designed to include all-of-society, and have already engaged world-renowned experts including Professor Emeritus Dr. Ulric Johnson of Boston, and Dr. Wendell C. Wallace, of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Dr. Johnson is an international presenter, and trainer on Gang Violence Prevention and Youth Leadership Development, and Dr. Wallace is a criminologist, and Senior Lecturer whose research focuses on Policing, Violence (Domestic and School), issues in higher education, and gangs. Both of these professionals have formally agreed to bring their expert-level knowledge to Tobago and assist ‘all of society’ in forging a bulwark within the social infrastructure against the burgeoning violent crimes that have now claimed 16 lives.

We therefore call on all organizations and persons at all levels, to join CivilNET in furthering the resistance to crime in Tobago; and support with initiatives like the aforementioned seminar before the crime surge escalates. CivilNET remains resolute that an all-of-society approach must be meaningfully engaged as a step to achieving lasting solutions to the impetus that drives the few amongst us to a life of crime.

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‘Let’s All Pull Tobago Together’

Tobago CivilNET