

# JAMAICA<sup>1</sup>

## General Information

Jamaica gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1962 but remained part of the British Commonwealth. The Queen of England remains head of state, represented by the General Governor. The government is led by the Prime Minister. Jamaica is a constitutional parliamentary democracy. The island's nearly 11,000 sq. km. support a population of 2,641,600, averaging 236.4 inhabitants per sq. km.<sup>2</sup> Population growth is relatively stable at 0.6%, and the average life expectancy is 76 years.<sup>3</sup> In 2003 the country's GDP was US\$8.1 billion with an average annual growth of 2.3%.<sup>4</sup> The unemployment rate in October, 2003 was 12.8%, with a notably higher rate (17.1%) for women.<sup>5</sup> Literacy rates for adults over the age of fifteen were 83.8% for men and 91.4% for women in 2002.<sup>6</sup> The capital city of Kingston has become a major urban center. Jamaica is administratively divided into fourteen municipalities: Clarendon, Hanover, Kingston, Manchester, Portland, Saint Andrew, Saint Ann, Saint Catherine, Saint Elizabeth, Saint James, Saint Mary, Saint Thomas, Trelawney, and Westmoreland. Ethnically, 90.9% of the population is of African origin, 1.3% is of East Indian origin, 0.2% is of European origin, and 7.3% is *mestizo*.<sup>7</sup>

## Judicial System Highlights

- Jamaica's judicial system is based on the English common law system.
- Jamaica's 1962 Constitution establishes the principles of judicial independence, the presumption of innocence, and jury hearings for serious criminal cases.
- Appeals are made before the Court of Appeal, and in the final instance before the Privy Council in London. The Public Defender, the Office of Utilities Regulation, and the Political Ombudsman investigate citizen complaints against the administration and matters involving political parties.
- The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was created by treaty in 2001 and inaugurated as a regional court of last resort in April, 2005. The Court will have jurisdiction over Jamaica and other CARICOM countries and will replace the Privy Council as the court of final instance.
- In 2004, Jamaica's homicide rate was over 54 per 100,000 inhabitants, the highest in the country's history.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2003, Jamaican jails and prisons held 4,744 prisoners. The total incarceration rate was 176 per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>9</sup>

## 1. Institutions<sup>10</sup>

### Judicial Branch

The Jamaican legal and judicial system is based on the English common law tradition. The country's 1962 Constitution establishes three important principles: the independence of the judiciary, the presumption of innocence, and trial by jury for serious criminal cases.

The island's Chief Justice is nominated by the Governor General with the Prime Minister's approval in consultation with the minority leader. The Chief Justice is the head of the judiciary and presides over the Judicial Services Commission.

The Jamaican judiciary incorporates the following institutions, in descending order of jurisdictional hierarchy:

#### Privy Council

The Privy Council, headquartered in London, is one of the oldest institutions of the British government, though over the years it has adapted to reflect the development of democracy in Britain. The Council's Judicial Committee acts as court of final appeal for former British colonies

<sup>1</sup> This chapter relies heavily on the following sources: i) CGCED, *Challenges of Capacity Development, Towards Sustainable Reforms of Caribbean Justice Sectors, Volume II: A Diagnostic Assessment*, IDB, May 2000. ii) IDB, *Governance in Suriname, Economic and Sector Study Series*, April 2001. iii) CGCED, *Challenges of Capacity Development, Towards Sustainable Reforms of Caribbean Justice Sectors Volume I: Policy Document*, IDB, May 2000. iv) Data provided by Gino Persaud, Attorney, Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, on the data collection spreadsheet in 2003. Other sources are cited individually.

that have chosen to retain appeals to her Majesty in Council. It is also the court of last resort for overseas British territories and Crown dependencies. The Privy Council also rules on specific domestic matters. For Commonwealth cases, five judges normally sit on the Council. In 2004, nine appeals were filed from Jamaica.<sup>11</sup> A total of fifteen appeals from Jamaica were resolved by the Privy Council between January 2004 and July 2005.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Court of Appeal*

The Court of Appeal includes the Court President, the Chief Justice (who is invited by the President), and six justices. Any individual who is not satisfied with a ruling of another court (barring petty sessions court) may appeal to this court, which is attended by a Judge in Chambers. The President is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister and in consultation with the minority leader. He or she is also a member of the Judicial Services Commission.

#### *Supreme Court*

The Jamaican Supreme Court includes the Chief Justice, a Senior *Puisne* Judge, and fourteen *puisne* judges. In order to become a *puisne* judge the individual must have at least ten years of experience as an attorney.<sup>13</sup> The court exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction, conducting trials with one judge and a jury of twelve (for murder cases) or seven (for other criminal cases). Criminal cases reach the Supreme Court via procedural orders originating from the resident magistrates. The criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is called the Circuit Court, which meets in parishes, relieving the parties involved from having to travel to Kingston. The circuit court held for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew is called the Home Circuit Court. The remaining institutions are named after the respective parish, for example, the St. Catherine Circuit Court or the St. James Circuit Court.

Through its civil jurisdiction, the Supreme Court hears civil actions for cases of negligence, breach of contract, slander and libel, violations or trespass, divorce administration, matters of equity, custody and restraining orders. It has the power to issue prerogative writs and citations.

The Supreme Court has two additional divisions, the Revenue Court and the Gun Court.

#### *Revenue Court*

Established through the 1971 Revenue Court Act, this court is a superior court of records with an official seal and is overseen by a judge who is a senior member of the Supreme Court. The Revenue Court covers matters under the following acts:

- The Customs Act
- The Excise Duty Act
- The Valuation Act
- The Income Tax Act
- The Land Development Duty Acts
- The Transfer Tax Act
- The General Consumption Tax Act

#### *Gun Court*

The Gun Court was established in 1974 and consists of several divisions in the Superior Courts of Records (e.g. the High Court Division, which was established in 1976) and the Circuit Court Division, which hear cases of firearm crimes that carry a sentence of mandatory life imprisonment.

#### *Family Court*

The Family Court deals with issues related to child support, juvenile delinquency, custody and guardianship of children, adoption, and married women's property rights in the corporate sector. It operates in Kingston and Montego Bay, where its jurisdiction is extended to the subdivisions of St. James and Hanover. In other districts the resident magistrates' courts normally attend to such matters.

#### *Traffic Court*

This court hears matters related to the Road Traffic Law in Kingston and St. Andrew. In other areas these cases are heard by the resident magistrates' courts.

#### *Resident Magistrates' Courts*

Each district has one of these courts, which usually hear civil and criminal matters of lesser importance. The resident magistrates' courts are also responsible for preliminary investigations in criminal cases involving serious and very serious crimes.

*Petty Sessions Tribunals*

These courts deal with minor offenses and are usually presided over by justices of the peace. Whereas appeals of any other court are submitted to the Court of Appeal (or Privy Council), appeals from these courts are dealt with by a judge in chambers.

*Ministry of Justice<sup>14</sup>*

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for protecting citizens' Constitutional rights, maintaining judicial independence and implementing reforms. It also ensures that citizens whose rights are violated by a government agency receive redress.

*Ministry of National Security and Justice*

According to its mission statement, the goal of the Ministry of National Security is "to facilitate and promote the maintenance of law and order, the safekeeping and rehabilitation of offenders, the protection of the country against internal and external threats, thereby ensuring the safety and social wellbeing of all Jamaicans while providing opportunities for the development and welfare of its internal and external clients."<sup>15</sup>

*Attorney General's Office*

Within the Executive Branch the Attorney General's Office is in charge of designing legislation, reviewing laws, and vetoing legal documents in the name of the State. It is also responsible for providing legal advice related to national and international affairs to the Cabinet, Ministers, Statutory Bodies and other government departments. The Attorney General is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

*Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions*

The Jamaican Constitution establishes this entity as a public office with the power to initiate and carry out investigations of crimes and criminal offenses, initiate and continue such investigations when they have been initiated by another

authorized entity, and discontinue a given investigation at any point prior to sentencing.

*Public Defender's Office*

The Public Defense Law was approved in 1999 and came into force on April 16, 2000. The Public Defender's Office is a parliamentary commission; its main role is to investigate allegations of unjust acts or violations of the Constitution by government agencies against the citizenry. The 1999 law also gave this body the power to investigate cases in which an individual alleges that his or her Constitutional rights have been violated.<sup>16</sup>

*Jamaica Constabulary Force*

The tasks and obligations of the police force are defined in Section 13 of the Jamaica Constabulary Force Act. The police are responsible for safeguarding law and order, preventing and detecting criminal acts, protecting life and property, investigating crimes, and implementing all related criminal laws.

In October 2004, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights released the report of the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, which stated that the country had a high number of questionable police shootings and should hold more policemen accountable for their actions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade called the report "fairly balanced," and noted that measures had been taken to address the situation.<sup>17</sup>

## 2. Procedures

*Criminal Cases*

Criminal summary offenses are tried by the magistrates' courts. The procedure begins with the formal presentation of a charge. If the defendant pleads guilty, there is no trial and the magistrate passes sentence.

When the defendant does not plead guilty, a trial is held where the opposing party (usually a police official), presents their case. At the closing of the official's arguments, the accused may request dismissal of charges, and the prosecutor may make a rebuttal. The magistrate reaches a decision based on these presentations. If charges

are dismissed, all procedures are concluded. If the magistrate does not dismiss the case, the accused is called to present his or her case and any evidence for discharge. At the end of the presentation of both parties' cases, closing arguments are submitted after which the magistrate issues a sentence.

Indictable matters that constitute serious offenses are begun in the magistrates' courts, where a preliminary investigation is carried out in order to determine if there are grounds for a judicial case based on the evidence presented. If the magistrates' court decides that there are no grounds for prosecution, the charges are dropped.

After both sides have presented arguments, the magistrate decides if an effective case can be made. If so, the defendant is brought before the High Court and a trial is held, during which a judge determines the legal aspects and twelve jurors rule on the facts of the case.

During the trial phase, the charges are formalized, the accusation is read, and the defendant enters a plea. If the defendant pleads guilty, the judge listens to arguments from both sides regarding mitigating circumstances. If the plea is not guilty, a jury is selected through a process involving both parties and the trial is held. After both parties' arguments are offered the judge presents a summary to the jury, which then retires to deliberate, afterwards presenting its verdict. Arguments that may serve to influence the verdict are then presented, and the judge passes sentence.

### *Civil Suits*

Procedures and practices of civil justice are based on English common law, the High Court Rules and Court of Appeal Rules. Procedures are carried out in both oral and written form. It is interesting to note that in August, 2003 a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded initiative introduced a computer system in the Supreme Court that facilitates automated case management, expediting the processing of civil law suits.<sup>18</sup>

## 3. Case Volume and Movement

Very little current statistical information is available regarding the number of cases filed in Jamaican courts. A recent World Bank study notes that "The high level of crime and violence has overloaded the judiciary with a backlog of cases, pending in high

courts for over four years, in spite of the establishment of night courts to deal with minor cases. Though there are delays in the administration of justice, and legal and administrative practices are outdated and inefficient, the judicial system in Jamaica is perceived to be relatively fair and independent from political pressures...."<sup>19</sup>

The Privy Council reported that nine appeals were filed from Jamaica in 2004, five of which were dismissed, one of which was varied or allowed in part, and three of which were allowed. All of the latter were still pending at the end of that year.<sup>20</sup>

### *Case Duration*

#### *Criminal Cases*

According to the IDB's *Indicative Caribbean Justice Sector Information Policy Document*, criminal cases heard by the Supreme Court lasted an average of two years (in 2000).

#### *Civil Suits*

The same source states that civil trials last an average of three to four years in the Supreme Court.

## 4. Crime Rates

The Jamaica Constabulary Force website provides weekly reports on crimes committed in Jamaica, which speak eloquently to the country's alarming problem in this area. According to the most recent information posted by this government agency, 265 crimes were reported for the week of May 2-8, 2005, 160 of which were listed as "cleared up." More than half (139) were crimes against persons, including thirty-four murders, thirty-two shootings and fourteen sex offenses. The service solved thirteen murders, thirteen shootings and nine sex offenses.<sup>21</sup>

In response to the country's high rate of crime and violence the government formed a National Committee in 2002 in order to develop recommendations for actions that could be taken to address this problem and ideas for improving the process by which members of the Police Services Commission are appointed.<sup>22</sup> Despite these efforts, Jamaica's 2004 homicide rate was 54 per 100,000 inhabitants, the highest in its history.

## 5. Prison Population

The Jamaican prison system is administered by the Department of Correctional Services, which is part of the Ministry of National Security and places special emphasis on rehabilitation and offers literacy, job training and other services for inmates.<sup>23</sup>

According to the International Center for Prison Studies, Jamaican jails and prisons held 4,744 prisoners in 2003 for a total incarceration rate of 176 per 100,000 inhabitants. The country's twelve correctional institutions had an overall occupancy rate of 117%, down from 133% in 2002. 11.4% of detainees were awaiting trial.<sup>24</sup>

## 6. Related Areas

### *Alternative Dispute Resolution*

Jamaica's Supreme Court offers mediation services through the Dispute Resolution Foundation as an alternative to traditional trials. According to the foundation's website, the private voluntary agency was established in July, 1994 "to establish and encourage the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques throughout Jamaica." According to the same source, some of its objectives are:

- To encourage and educate the public about using ADR techniques to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence;
- To establish Peace & Justice Centres in communities throughout Jamaica;
- To increase the use of mediation by the legal profession.

The Foundation offers a variety of mediation and training services.<sup>25</sup>

### *Legal Profession*

The University of the West Indies Jamaica campus has a law school. According to the *Indicative Caribbean Justice Sector Information* in the *IDB Policy Document*, Jamaica had 2,500 attorneys and two bar associations in the year 2000.

## 7. Judicial Reform and International Cooperation Projects Underway

### *Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)*

The CCJ was inaugurated in April, 2005. This entity has two jurisdictions, original and appellate. The Court is empowered to rule in original jurisdiction on disputes related to the CARICOM Treaty (the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas). It acts as court of appeal for its member countries in both the civil and criminal areas.<sup>26</sup> The appellate jurisdiction is similar to that of the European Court of Justice and Court of First Instance, the Andean Court of Justice and the International Court of Justice.

Jamaica has only accepted the Court's original jurisdiction (in other words, it only recognizes its power to rule on trade disputes among CARICOM countries). As no political consensus has been reached regarding the CCJ's appellate jurisdiction, the Privy Court continues to be the country's last instance appeals court.

The Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission appoints CCJ justices, whose security and tenure are covered under the terms of the Draft Agreement. Justices may only be removed from office after a special tribunal is convened and advises such action. The Court's Chief Justice is appointed by member states' leaders after being recommended by the Commission. This person can be removed from office only for due cause after a special tribunal convened for that purpose advises such removal to the Commission.

In order to guarantee a high level of competence, justices can be citizens of any Commonwealth country, even those that are not CCJ member states.

The Court will be financed from the interest accruing on a trust fund valued at US\$100 million, which is managed by the Caribbean Development Bank in Barbados. The measure was taken in order to ensure that CCJ justices may act independently and are not subject to political pressure.<sup>27</sup>

### *Other Current Projects*

Various NGOs and the Jamaican government have proposed several measures for improving certain aspects of the criminal justice system. These have included creating a victims' assistance program, instituting reforms in the coroner's court system, improving the chain of custody procedures for

evidence in criminal cases, strengthening the free legal aid system and increasing access to justice sector information.

In addition, the Supreme Court has developed a plan for technologically overhauling in the courts to improve access to information and streamline communications.

### ***New Civil Procedures***

The implementation of new civil procedure regulations from England has led to radical changes in civil procedures and practices, mainly through simplifying processes and including principles of alternative dispute resolution through mediation.

### ***Constabulary Reform and Modernization***<sup>28</sup>

The objective of this effort is to provide effective, high-quality police services, particularly in poor areas. It is designed to improve police services by reorganizing the police force, introducing a community policing program, improving responses to crimes and traffic problems, and enhancing the management and development of financial and human resources.

The project was approved in 1999 with US\$4,579,000 from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). Consultants were hired in 2000.<sup>29</sup>

### ***Community Service Enhancement***<sup>30</sup>

DFID has earmarked US\$947,000 in order to create an effective, sustainable community service system on the island. This initiative includes the following actions:

- Increasing the number of inmates who participate in community service
- Increasing the number of cases that are effectively incorporated into the program
- Improving the information management system
- Reducing overcrowding in prisons and human rights abuses by increasing the number of community service sentences issued.
- Providing one director and ten experienced probation officers to work in four different areas.
- Offering training, workshops and consulting services for personal development, as well as a vehicle for monitoring and assessment.

The project was approved in 1999 and according to the program schedule went into effect in June 2002.

### ***Citizen Security and Justice Program***<sup>31</sup>

Supported by IDB contributions in the amount of US\$16 million, this project became operational in 2000, with the following aims:

- To prevent and reduce violence in general and homicides in particular.
- To enhance the way in which crime is handled.
- To improve access to justice.

### ***Social Conflict and Legal Reform***<sup>32</sup>

With US\$5 million in funding from CIDA, this project was approved on August 15, 1998, with the aim of improving the efficiency of Jamaica's legal system in handling social disputes. Some of the project's elements include establishing ADR methods and delivering training in this topic to the judiciary and the public, among other actions.

## **8. Websites**

### **Supreme Court**

<http://www.sc.gov.jm/>

Provides information on judges, seminars, laws, judicial decisions, and related subjects, as well as a weekly schedule and a list of justices with emails. English-language only.

### **Ministry of National Security and Justice**

<http://www.mns.gov.jm/about.php>

Includes an organizational flowchart and mission statement, as well as links to pages on the permanent secretary and other authorities, texts of Jamaican laws and immigration policies, the Minister's biography, press releases, and related links. It also includes information on the victim support program. English-language only.

### **Government of Jamaica**

<http://www.cabinet.gov.jm/index.asp>

Official government website with news, links to ministries and government agencies, document archives, news reports, speeches, and local media. English-language only.

**E-Jamaica Online Government Website**

[www.e-jamaica.gov.jm](http://www.e-jamaica.gov.jm)

With a wide array of data, contact information for government offices and publications, this website is a new resource for Jamaican citizens with customs information, tax forms, full text files for Jamaican legislation, and links to many key justice sector offices. E-Jamaica also offers statistics on the population, labor sector, and production and manufacturing. English-language only.

**Office of the Public Defender**

[www.opd.gov.jm](http://www.opd.gov.jm)

Official website offering institutional information, a history of the concept of public defense, and descriptions of the institutions charged with public defense in Jamaica. Users may also access the full text of the Public Defender's Act and contact information and submit complaints to the office by completing an online form. English-language only.

**Jamaican Constabulary Force**

<http://www.jamaicapolice.org.jm/>

Descriptions of the organization, structure, mission, obligations, and duties of Jamaica's police, as well as the institutional strategy, access to the Information Center, a list of the country's most wanted criminals, a citizens' code of conduct, press releases, and news. English-language only.

**Jamaican Bar Association**

[http://www.jambar.org.jm/jamaican\\_bar\\_association.htm](http://www.jambar.org.jm/jamaican_bar_association.htm)

Offers institutional information, links and a list of key administrative officials. The Resources section provides a list of papers available through the institution's main office. The site also offers a section with news and events. English-language only.

## 9. Basic Directory

**Supreme Court**

Address: Public Building E, 134 Tower Street, Kingston  
Phone: (876) 922-8300/ 922- 5606/ 967-4859

**Ministry of National Security and Justice**

Address: Mutual Life Centre. North Tower.2, Oxford Road, Kingston  
Phone: (876) 906-4908-24  
Fax: (876) 922 5109

**Attorney General's Department**

Address: Mutual Life Centre. North Tower.2, Oxford Road,

Kingston

Phone: (876) 906-2414/ 7/ 906-1

Fax: (876) 922-5109

**Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

Address: Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions, King Street, Downtown Kingston

Phone: (876) 922-6321/3

**Public Defender's Office**

Address: 78 Harbour Street, Kingston

Phone: (876) 922 7089/ 90

Fax: (876) 922 9830

**Jamaican Bar Association**

Address: 78 Harbour Street, Kingston

Phone: (876) 967 9034

Fax: (876) 967 1528

## Notes

- <sup>2</sup> Statistical Institute of Jamaica ([www.statinja.com](http://www.statinja.com)). Population for 2003 from the E-Jamaica Website (<http://www.e-jamaica.gov.jm/statistics/population.htm>).
- <sup>3</sup> E-Jamaica Website, data from 2003.
- <sup>4</sup> See <http://www.iadb.org/exr/country/eng/jamaica/>.
- <sup>5</sup> E-Jamaica Website.
- <sup>6</sup> Data from 2002. See the World Bank Group's country reports at <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html>.
- <sup>7</sup> Data from the U.S. Department of State. See <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2032.htm>.
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2004." Available online at <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41766.htm>.
- <sup>9</sup> International Centre for Prison Studies, "Prison Brief for Jamaica." See [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/worldbrief/caribbean\\_records.php?code=66](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/worldbrief/caribbean_records.php?code=66).
- <sup>10</sup> Descriptions based on the information posted on the Jamaica Judicial Branch website. See <http://www.ddg.com/LIS/InfoDesignF97/malyce/govjudic.htm>.
- <sup>11</sup> Privy Council website. See <http://privy-council.org.uk>.
- <sup>12</sup> See <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/>.
- <sup>13</sup> The British English term *puisne* comes from the Middle French *puis ne*, literally "born after," and is related to the modern adjective puny. In this case, it refers to a judge ranking below the Chief Justice.
- <sup>14</sup> See the Ministry of Justice website, <http://www.moj.gov.jm/>.
- <sup>15</sup> Ministry of National Security, see <http://www.mns.gov.jm/about.php>.
- <sup>16</sup> For more information see [www.opd.gov.jm](http://www.opd.gov.jm).
- <sup>17</sup> "Country Report on Human Rights 2004," *Op. cit.*
- <sup>18</sup> See "New Computer System at Supreme Court to Speed Up Resolution of Cases" at the Jamaica Ministry of Justice website. Available online at [http://www.jis.gov.jm/justice/html/20030820t190000-0500\\_393\\_jis\\_new\\_computer\\_system\\_at\\_supreme\\_court\\_to\\_speed\\_up\\_resolution\\_of\\_cases.asp](http://www.jis.gov.jm/justice/html/20030820t190000-0500_393_jis_new_computer_system_at_supreme_court_to_speed_up_resolution_of_cases.asp).
- <sup>19</sup> World Bank, "Crime and Its Impact on Business in Jamaica," p. 126. Available online at [http://wbn0018.worldbank.org/LAC/LAC.nsf/0/12c128ba971c348a85256e0400684cb9/\\$FILE/Ch6%204Dec03\\_Gray%20Cover.pdf](http://wbn0018.worldbank.org/LAC/LAC.nsf/0/12c128ba971c348a85256e0400684cb9/$FILE/Ch6%204Dec03_Gray%20Cover.pdf).
- <sup>20</sup> Privy Council, available <http://privy-council.org.uk>.

- <sup>21</sup> Jamaica Constabulary Force website, [www.jamaicapolice.org.jm/crime\\_stats/crime\\_index.html](http://www.jamaicapolice.org.jm/crime_stats/crime_index.html).
- <sup>22</sup> The 2002 report of the National Committee on Crime and Violence is available online at <http://www.jis.gov.jm/EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY.pdf>.
- <sup>23</sup> Jamaica Information Service. Available <http://www.jis.gov.jm/security/index.asp>.
- <sup>24</sup> International Center for Prison Studies. Prison Brief for Jamaica. Available <http://www.prisonstudies.org/>.
- <sup>25</sup> For a more detailed description of this foundation and contact information, see <http://www.moj.gov.jm/node/view/10>.
- <sup>26</sup> "Court of Justice, A Body Whose Time Has Come." Wesley Gibbings. Inter Press Service. New York: July 6, 1998.
- <sup>27</sup> For more information, please see [www.caribbeancourtjustice.org](http://www.caribbeancourtjustice.org).
- <sup>28</sup> IDB-CGCED, *Policy Document, 2000, Op.cit.*
- <sup>29</sup> It should be noted that the police have a computerized information center. For more information see <http://www.jamaicapolice.org.jm/>.
- <sup>30</sup> IDB-CGCED, *Policy Document, 2000, Op.cit.*
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.