

Caribbean Today

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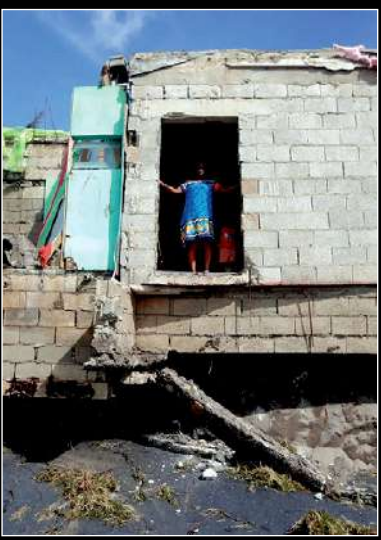
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Vol. 36 No. 12

THE MULTI-AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED



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Shaggy teamed up with an Orlando attorney to get plane loads
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REGIONAL NEWS



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Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News This Week:

REGIONAL

For the 33rd consecutive year, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution demanding an end to the decades-long U.S. embargo on Cuba. All 14 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations voted in favor of the measure, which passed by a vote of 165 in favor, seven against, and twelve abstentions. The resolution, titled "Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba," urges Washington to lift the sanctions.

Countries voting against included the U.S., Israel, Argentina, Hungary, Paraguay, North Macedonia, and Ukraine, while abstentions came from Albania, Costa Rica, Estonia, and others. The resolution reiterated the Assembly's call for nations to reject the Helms-Burton Act, which Cuba argues violates international law.

The embargo, first imposed in 1958 and expanded in 1962, has been condemned globally every year since 1992 - with the U.S. and Israel consistently voting against.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Venezuela has suspended its energy agreements with Trinidad and Tobago, accusing the twin-island nation of taking "hostile" actions after hosting a U.S. warship involved in anti-drug operations.

President Nicolás Maduro announced the suspension during his weekly TV program, denouncing Trinidad for acting as an "aircraft carrier of the U.S. empire." He said the move leaves Venezuela with "no choice" but to withdraw from energy treaties signed a decade ago.

The decision followed comments by Venezuela's vice president and hydrocarbons minister, who had earlier called for the agreements to be cancelled.

The USS Gravelly, a U.S. Navy destroyer equipped with guided missiles, arrived in Trinidad on Sunday, October 26th, to conduct joint exercises with the country's navy - a move that drew sharp criticism from Caracas and heightened regional tensions.

Unlike other leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean who have compared strikes on alleged drug vessels to extrajudicial killings, T&T PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar has supported the campaign. She has said she'd rather see drug traffickers "blown to pieces" than have them kill the citizens of her nation. "I am tired of seeing our citizens murdered and terrorized because of gang violence driven by illegal drugs and arms trafficking," she told

AP.

The Trump administration has launched 10 strikes against alleged drug carrying vessels since September, when it first deployed ships to the southern Caribbean. At least 43 people have been killed in the controversial attacks.

Meanwhile, A Russian Ilyushin Il-76 transport aircraft, long associated with the country's military and the former Wagner mercenary group, landed in Caracas last weekend, signaling renewed Russian engagement in Venezuela.

Flight data shows the plane, registration RA-78765, departed from the Moscow region and made stops in Armenia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, and Mauritania before arriving in Venezuela on Sunday, Oct. 26th, after a two-day journey.

The aircraft's arrival comes amid heightened tensions between Venezuela and the United States, as Washington accuses the Maduro government of participating in drug trafficking operations. The U.S. recently deployed naval assets to the Caribbean to target vessels allegedly involved in narcotics smuggling.

Russia remains one of Venezuela's closest allies, and the landing of a military-linked aircraft underscores Moscow's continued strategic and military interest in the region at a time of escalating geopolitical friction.

GRENADA

Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell says he will address Parliament this week on the U.S. request to temporarily install a radar system at the Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA) and the possible deployment of U.S. military assets on or near Grenada.

Speaking at a town hall meeting recently, Mitchell confirmed that the government is still considering the request, emphasizing that technical, operational, and regulatory factors must be fully assessed before any decision is made. Mitchell added that public opinion will play a key role in the decision. "There has been more debate on this matter than perhaps any other national issue in recent times," he said.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Cayman Islands Government has pledged US\$1.2 million in essential supplies to support Jamaica's recovery after Hurricane Melissa's devastation.

Premier André Ebanks made the announcement last Thursday, recalling Jamaica's swift assistance after Hurricane Ivan. He confirmed that part of the aid - worth US\$200,000 - has already arrived for immediate hand-over, with the remainder to follow by shipment.

"On behalf of myself, the



The USS Gravelly warship arrived in Trinidad and Tobago, a short distance from Venezuela's coast, on Sunday, October 26, 2025. (Martin Bernetti/AFP/Getty Image)

Government, and the ministers who are here, including Minister Nick DaCosta and the leader of the Opposition, Cayman stands with Jamaica," Ebanks said. Jamaica's Information Minister Dr. Dana Morris Dixon expressed gratitude, calling the donation a timely and unexpected gesture.

GUYANA

The leader of Guyana's main opposition, We Invest in Nationhood, (WIN) party, Azruddin Mohamed, says he fears for his life after being arrested on Oct. 31st, by what he described as heavily armed police officers outside the Guyana Revenue Authority, (GRA) headquarters in Georgetown.

Mohamed told reporters that "six or seven vehicles and more than 30 gunmen in masks" surrounded him before his arrest. "I thought they wanted to kill me there or execute me there," Mohamed said after being released on GUY\$150,000 bail (approximately US\$720) following a court appearance. "These are the same Special Branch guys who follow my every move daily."

The 38-year-old politician and his father, 73-year-old businessman and billionaire Nazar Mohamed, were taken into custody following an extradition request from the United States. The request stems from an indictment unsealed by a U.S. Grand Jury in the Southern District of Florida on October 6, 2025, alleging their involvement in a US\$50 million gold export and tax evasion scheme.

The Charges

The Mohameds face multiple counts of wire fraud, mail fraud, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, money laundering, and customs violations.

According to the indictment, the scheme allegedly ran from 2017 to June 2024, involving falsified customs declarations, reused export seals, and the evasion of export taxes on more than 10,000 kilograms

of gold.

The indictment also references the attempted shipment of US\$5.3 million in undeclared gold seized at Miami International Airport and the under-invoicing of a US\$680,000 luxury vehicle. In June 2024, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned both men and their company, Mohamed's Enterprise, accusing them of gold smuggling, tax evasion, and money laundering.

Political Implications

Mohamed, whose WIN party won the second-largest number of seats in Guyana's September 1 general election, is set to be sworn in as Leader of the Opposition when Parliament reconvenes on Nov. 3rd. He insists the charges are politically motivated. The case has been adjourned until November 10, with both men ordered to report daily to the police beginning November 7th.

GUYANA

A Venezuelan national, identified as Daniel Alexander Ramirez Peodomo, has confessed to detonating a bomb at the Mobil gas station at Regent and King Streets, Georgetown, on Sunday, October 26th, which killed a six-year-old girl and injured four others.

Deputy Police Commissioner Wendell Blanhum said Peodomo told investigators he brought the device from Venezuela and activated its switch after exiting a vehicle near the station. Peodomo and an accomplice reportedly entered Guyana illegally by boat that morning.

Police believe Peodomo is linked to Organización R (OR), a Venezuelan criminal network associated with the Sindicato gang. His information has been shared with INTERPOL Caracas, and nine suspects, including four Venezuelans, are now in custody.

Authorities are also reviewing possible links to two prior bombings this year.

Joint police and military patrols have been increased across Georgetown as the investigation continues.

BAHAMAS

The Bahamas Department of Meteorology and the Disaster Risk Management Authority have issued an All Clear for the entire country, officially ending all hurricane watches and warnings following Hurricane Melissa. The Bahamas Airport Authority confirmed that most airports across the Central and Southern Bahamas have reopened after safety inspections, with only Rum Cay Airport, Deadman's Cay Airport, and Stella Maris Airport still under review. Authorities reported minimal damage to airport facilities and nearby communities. Travelers can find updated flight details at nassaulpia.com.

DOMINICA

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, (CCCCC) has announced that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has unanimously approved the Dominica Climate Resilience and Enhancement Project (DOMCREP - SAP062), valued at US\$26 million.

The project aims to strengthen food security, improve disaster management infrastructure, and build climate resilience among small-scale farmers through training and climate-smart agriculture. It includes US\$24.5 million in GCF grants and US\$1.5 million in co-financing from the Government of Dominica.

Dominica's Finance Minister Dr. Irving McIntyre described the approval as a "defining moment," noting the project will deliver long-term benefits to eight vulnerable communities and advance Dominica's national resilience agenda, reinforcing its leadership in climate adaptation across the Caribbean.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Diaspora And Local Groups Mobilize To Help Jamaica Recover After Hurricane Melissa

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL
Edited by Felicia J. Persaud

Across the United States, the Jamaican diaspora is rallying to deliver critical relief for families devastated by Hurricane Melissa, which tore through Jamaica on October 28th as a catastrophic Category 5 storm. From South Florida to New York, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Massachusetts, community organizations, churches, and individuals are mobilizing supplies, funds, and volunteers to help the island rebuild.

SOUTH FLORIDA LEADS THE CHARGE

In South Florida, three major organizations - South Florida Caribbean Strong, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), and The Miami Foundation - began loading supplies even before Melissa made landfall.

"More than 30 years after Hurricane Andrew, South Floridians understand the assignment," said Marlon Hill, voluntary lead organizer for South Florida Caribbean Strong. "The response has been encouraging. We've been collecting water, hygiene products, and non-perishable foods. Donors include individuals, corporations, and local non-profits. The Miami Heat and Carnival Cruise Lines together donated US\$1 million to relief efforts."

Hill expects the first shipments to arrive in Jamaica within 72 hours of departure. The U.S. Caribbean Strong Relief Fund, managed by The Miami Foundation, brings together community leaders, small businesses, and non-profits to quickly mobilize funds and supplies for the Caribbean during disasters.

HOW TO HELP FAMILIES IMPACTED BY HURRICANE MELISSA:

1. Donate: Contribute to the U.S. Caribbean Strong Relief Fund via The Miami Foundation or Global Empowerment Mission (GEM.org).

Other trusted partners include Food for the Poor and the American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ). Cash donations help fund transport, generators, and medical kits.

2. Volunteer: Help assemble emergency kits at GEM's Warehouse, 1850 NW 84th Ave, #100, Doral, FL 33126. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 AM-1 PM & 2-5 PM | Sat, 10 AM-2 PM

3. Purchase Relief Items: Visit sflcaribbeanstrong.org for a list of priority supplies such as tarps, canned goods, generators, and hygiene kits.

The City of Miramar, the Consul General of Jamaica in South Florida, Oliver Mair, and Food For The Poor have joined forces to launch a humanitarian relief effort.

Miramar Mayor Wayne M. Messam discussed their current endeavor at a news conference held late Thursday morning. He said the damage caused by the storm is staggering.

"It's just devastating when you see the images, the pictures, just the complete devastation," he said.

Messam urged South Floridians to support Jamaica in the hurricane's wake.

"First we ask for your prayers, for Jamaica, we ask you for your financial support, we ask you for your philanthropy, in any way that you can," he said.

The joint humanitarian relief effort aims to bring resources to the island.

"The western side of Jamaica has been ravaged, and we will need all the support possible," said Consul General of Jamaica Oliver Mair.

The group is now accepting donations of the following items:

- Tarps and tents
- Tools
- Generators
- Sleeping Bags
- Trash bags
- First aid kits
- Flashlights
- Hygiene kits

"Please donate to us. We are able to buy locally in Jamaica, which will speed up the ability to get things," said Food for the Poor President and CEO Ed Raine.

"Our drop-off locations [are available] 24 hours a day, so it doesn't matter the time," said Messam.

CONFIRMED DROP-OFF LOCATIONS IN SOUTH FLORIDA:

City of Miramar:

• Fire Station 19 – 6700 Miramar Parkway

• Fire Station 70 – 9001 Miramar Parkway

• Fire Station 84 – 14801 SW 27th Street

• Fire Station 100 – 2800 SW 184th Avenue

• Fire Station 107 – 11811 Miramar Parkway

• Miramar Police Headquarters – 11765 City Hall Promenade

City of Lauderhill:

• City Hall – 5581 W. Oakland Park Blvd.

• Veterans Park – 7600 NW 50th St.

• John Mullins Park – 2000 NW 55th Ave.

• Westwind Park – 4550 NW 82nd Ave.

• Lauderhill Historical Museum – 1080 NW 47th Ave.



Marlon Hill, voluntary lead organizer for South Florida Caribbean Strong, addresses the media on the needs of Jamaica post Melissa. (Contributed image)

- Joy's Roti Delight – 1205 NW 40th Ave. (Daily, 9 AM-9 PM)

Follow updates on Instagram: @SFLCaribbeanStrong
Jamaican Women of Florida (JWOF), are also collecting supplies at Island SPACE Museum, 8000 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, Thursday-Sunday, 11 AM-7 PM.

Central Florida And Beyond

In Kissimmee, Vice Mayor Angela Eady and the Alianza Center are organizing an emergency donation drive and community meeting to coordinate relief for Jamaica.

In New York, the American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ) has already raised US\$1 million in matching funds, with a goal to double it. "That will go to immediate relief efforts and rebuilding," said AFJ President Wendy Hart.

The JAHJAH Foundation has opened a Bronx drop-off at The Original Dumpling Shop, collecting water, zinc sheets, lumber, and food. "We intend to send two containers—one with building materials and one with essentials," said founder Dr. Trevor Dixon.

HOW TO HELP:

- Direct Relief: directrelief.org
- American Friends of Jamaica:

theafj.org

• JAHJAH Foundation: jahjahfoundation.org
Philadelphia, Massachusetts & Atlanta

In Philadelphia, drop-offs are open at Besco Shippers (5425 Baltimore Ave) and True United Church (6201 Old York Rd). Items can also be left at Cheltenham High School (7 AM-3 PM).

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

• Grace Community Church of God, 4982 Master St.

• Norristown Church of God, 329 E. Wood St.

• West End New Testament Church, 23 W. Marshall St.

• Greater Glory Church of God, 2227 Bryn Mawr Ave.

• Church of the Good Shepherd, 654 Church Lane, Yeadon

• First African Baptist Church, 700 N. 67th St., Philadelphia

In Massachusetts, the Jamaica Association for Massachusetts and the Peter Tosh Foundation are leading relief efforts for generators, medicine, and care packages. "It's a major coordination effort. Massachusetts has a large diaspora community ready to respond," said President Jennifer

Peter.

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Jamaica Association (AJA) is also mobilizing support. "We are working closely with our partners to ensure aid reaches those who need it most," said AJA President Evette Taylor-Reynolds.

ON THE GROUND IN JAMAICA

At least 28 deaths have been confirmed. Prime Minister Andrew Holness said, "Jamaica has sustained a major impact from a Category 5 hurricane... one of the top 10 hurricanes recorded."

Days before Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica, Denzil Williams was considering taking shelter at a public park near to his home in east Kingston, Jamaica's capital. But on October 26th, two days before the Category 5 monster made landfall, his son who lives abroad paid for accommodation at a more suitable Airbnb.

Williams, a 76-year-old pensioner, returned home on October 29th. There was some damage to his one-bedroom rented home but he says based on what he saw on television and social media, things could have been worse.

"There's a lot of water in di yard an' di roof partly blown off but those are things that can be taken care of. Di most important thing for me was to take evasive action," he said.

Like Hurricane Beryl in 2024, Kingston sustained only minor harm. The rural parishes, especially the agriculture-rich St. Elizabeth parish in the south and tourism-driven Westmoreland and St. James in the west, suffered extensive damage.

Williams remembers Gilbert vividly. He believes it was more devastating than Melissa because it resulted in deaths, destruction in Kingston and damage to lives and businesses that took years to recover.

As he surveyed the damage to his home, the devout Rastafarian had a spiritual take on Jamaica's latest scrape with nature.

"When all is said an' done, is God work. We jus' have to hope for di best."

The Norman Manley and Donald Sangster International Airports have reopened, though Montego Bay's terminal suffered roof damage.

For direct donations to the national recovery effort, visit: <https://supportjamaica.gov.jm/donate>

From churches to civic groups, Jamaicans across the world are proving once again that even in tragedy, unity remains one of the island's greatest strengths.



Over 170 Communities Affected Across Six Parishes As Death Toll Keeps Rising

More than 170 communities across six of Jamaica's hardest-hit parishes have been moderately or severely affected by Hurricane Melissa's devastating passage, according to Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Desmond McKenzie as he updated the media on the Jamaica hurricane.

Officials said they had dedicated a helicopter to the recovery of bodies. The country's information minister said at least 28 people were killed in the storm, including a child, and they expected the death toll to keep rising. In one isolated community, residents pleaded with officials to remove the body of one victim tangled in a tree. Dozens of U.S. search-and-rescue experts have landed in Jamaica along with their dogs.



Jamaica's PM Andrew Holness on the ground in Blackriver, St. Elizabeth on Oct. 29, 2025. (Facebook image)

Speaking at a special media briefing at Jamaica House, Minister McKenzie

identified Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Trelawny, Hanover, Westmoreland, and St. James as

the most impacted parishes, with widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructural damage reported.

He confirmed that 117 members of the Jamaica Defence Force's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) have been deployed to support search-and-rescue operations and deliver emergency food packages alongside the Jamaica Constabulary Force and Jamaica Fire Brigade.

Relief efforts are also being coordinated with local and international partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Red Cross, and Salvation Army.

The Minister also praised the thousands of "well-thinking

Jamaicans" who have joined volunteer efforts to provide relief and support to affected residents.

To strengthen coordination and transparency, the Government has launched a new national relief website to mobilize donations, streamline aid, and support recovery across the island.

Meanwhile, more than 13,000 people remained crowded into shelters, with 72% of the island without power and only 35% of mobile phone sites in operation, officials said. People clutched cash as they formed long lines at the few gas stations and supermarkets open in affected areas.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Samaritan's Purse Airlifts Emergency Relief To Jamaica After Hurricane Melissa

Less than two days after Hurricane Melissa - the planet's strongest storm of 2025 - made landfall in Jamaica, Samaritan's Purse airlifted its first Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and over 38,000 pounds of life-saving relief supplies to the island.

Within hours of the storm's passing, Samaritan's Purse deployed its Boeing 757 cargo plane loaded with critical aid. Distributions are expected to begin immediately. "Our teams are mobilized and ready to deliver relief in Jesus' name," the organization said in a statement, confirming that a second airlift using its DC-8 aircraft is scheduled for October 31st.

Relief shipments include community water systems, household water filters, shelter materials, solar lights, and hygiene kits. Each community water system can serve up to 10,000 people per day. Samaritan's Purse said it is coordinating efforts with over 200 church partners throughout Jamaica to ensure aid reaches those in greatest need.

Chicken & Tings Partners With World Central Kitchen To Feed Jamaicans After Hurricane Melissa

In the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest storms in Jamaica's history, local favorite Chicken and Tings has joined forces with international non-profit World Central Kitchen, (WCK) to deliver thousands of hot meals to residents across Kingston and St. Andrew.

The joint initiative, which began earlier this week, will continue for six more days, targeting communities hardest hit

in the Corporate Area.

"We're hitting the ground running again today," said Emelio Madden, owner of Chicken and Tings. "For the next six days, we and them [World Central Kitchen] have partnered to issue lunches throughout Kingston to those affected by Hurricane Melissa."

At present, the effort is focused in Kingston, but Madden confirmed that World Central Kitchen is coordinating with other local groups in additional parishes to expand coverage and reach families in need beyond the capital.

World Central Kitchen, founded by acclaimed chef and humanitarian José Andrés, is renowned for its rapid disaster response, providing food and clean water to first responders and affected residents after crises around the world.

As recovery efforts ramp up across Jamaica, World Central Kitchen is continuing to accept donations to fund its meal programs and ensure that no one goes hungry in the storm's wake. For Chicken and Tings, the partnership is more than an act of charity - it's a reflection of community spirit and solidarity. "When our people hurt, we can't just watch," Madden said. "We have to help feed hope back into Jamaica, one meal at a time." The parts of Jamaica hardest hit by Melissa were still recovering from last year's Hurricane Beryl, which passed just south of the island but caused significant damage despite not making landfall.

Royal Caribbean Group Pledges \$1 Million To Support Jamaica's Hurricane Recovery

Royal Caribbean Group has announced a \$1 million donation

to aid Jamaica's recovery following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Melissa, which left widespread destruction across the island on Oct. 28th.

The donation - made through Global Empowerment Mission, (GEM) - will support relief and long-term rebuilding efforts in partnership with GEM's Caribbean Recovery Team based in Kingston, which is already coordinating the delivery of emergency supplies. "In times of need, Royal Caribbean Group remains steadfast in supporting the local communities where our ships and employees call home," the company said in a statement.

Delivering Relief and Essential Supplies

The pledged funds will go toward providing care packages, bottled water, canned goods, and non-perishable foods to families in affected areas, alongside ongoing recovery initiatives expected to continue for several months.

Royal Caribbean Group - parent company of Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, and Silversea - is also using its global logistics network to help transport relief supplies to Jamaica, where infrastructure damage has made ground distribution difficult. "Our Hurricane Melissa disaster relief efforts are focused on delivering care packages and essential supplies to those affected," the company added. "Together with GEM, we can make a significant impact and support sustainable, long-term recovery."

- NewsAmericasNow.com



IsraAID Launches Emergency Mission to Support Jamaica After Hurricane Melissa



Drone footage shows the damage in Blackriver, St. Elizabeth. (Getty image)

IsraAID, Israel's leading independent humanitarian organization, has launched an emergency response mission in the wake of Hurricane Melissa, the Category 5 storm that made history as the strongest ever to strike Jamaica and one of the most powerful hurricanes on record in the Caribbean.

The organization announced that its initial emergency response team will arrive in Jamaica this weekend to assist in critical areas including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). The delegation, composed of emergency response, logistics, and health experts, will include specialists from IsraAID's regional offices in Dominica and Colombia.

"The damage we're seeing from Hurricane Melissa is devastating, and IsraAID is committed to standing with affected communities at this

critical moment," said Michal Bar, IsraAID's Senior Director of Emergency Operations. "Communities in southwest Jamaica were severely impacted by Hurricane Beryl just last year and are now experiencing destruction on a whole new scale."

Bar added that IsraAID will work closely with local partners and authorities to assess the most urgent needs, focusing on access to clean water, hygiene supplies, and child protection services.

Since its founding, IsraAID has become one of the world's most active humanitarian responders. As of October 2025, the organization has operated in more than 65 countries, responding to over 100 major emergencies, including earthquakes, hurricanes, and refugee crises.



NY Immigration Advocates Urge Temporary Protected Status For Jamaicans After Hurricane Melissa



Destroyed buildings in Black River, Jamaica, on Oct. 29, 2025. (Ricardo Maky/AFP via Getty Images)

Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, Caribbean immigration advocates in New York are calling on U.S. President Donald Trump to grant Temporary Protected Status, (TPS), to Jamaicans living in the United States.

The New York Immigration Coalition, (NYIC), which represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights organizations statewide, said the hurricane caused “catastrophic destruction” across Jamaica, leaving homes, businesses, and

infrastructure in ruins.

“Everything from homes to local businesses has been destroyed,” said Murad Awawdeh, NYIC President and CEO. “Given the scale of this humanitarian crisis, the administration must act urgently to grant TPS to Jamaica, ensuring that the 230,000 Jamaicans in New York can stay without fear of deportation.”

Awawdeh emphasized that deporting individuals back to a disaster zone would be “reckless and inhumane,” adding that TPS would allow Jamaicans to work legally, support their families, and contribute to recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, in Jamaica, UN Resident Coordinator Dennis Zulu described the destruction as “unlike anything seen before,” with widespread infrastructure damage and severe humanitarian needs. The UN World Food



Damage in Alligator Pond, Jamaica. (Reuters image)

Programme is mobilizing food, shelter, and logistics support to assist affected communities once airports reopen.

As recovery efforts intensify, advocates say granting TPS for Jamaica would provide stability for immigrants while the island rebuilds from one of

the most powerful storms in its history.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Vincetians Vote For A New Government This Month

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has announced November 27th, as the date for the general elections there.

Speaking at the ruling Unity Labour Party’s, (ULP) “Labour Strong Rally,” Gonsalves said that the 15-seat Parliament has been dissolved and that Nomination Day is November. 10th.

“It is now decision time for our free and democratic people in free and fair elections for you to choose between the ULP and the NDP (New Democratic Party),” Gonsalves said.

The ULP is seeking an unprecedented sixth consecutive term in office. The ULP had won an historic fifth consecutive five-year term by a 9-6 margin in 2020, when the party won North Leeward by one vote after a contentious recount.

However, in 2020, the party also lost the popular vote for the first time since 1998. “And the NDP, you’re listening to me: Hear me well. as a boy from country, I tell you, it’s ain’t long rope that does heng (hang) cattle; is short rope, and the rope is getting shorter and shorter,” said the 79-year-old Gonsalves.

Gonsalves main challenge will come from the NDP, headed by the 66-year-old Dr. Godwin Friday who has been representing the Northern Grenadines since 2001 and is making a second bid to become prime minister. In 2020, Friday failed in his first attempt to lead the NDP to victory, almost four years after taking over the reins of the party.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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UK Pitches In Over US\$3 Million To Aid Caribbean's Hurricane Recovery

The United Kingdom has stepped up with US\$3.36 million in emergency humanitarian funding to support the Caribbean's recovery from Hurricane Melissa, with targeted assistance for Jamaica, which was among the hardest hit.

The aid package will provide shelter kits, water filters, and blankets to help prevent injuries and curb potential disease outbreaks in the storm's aftermath. According to the UK government, emergency supplies have already been pre-positioned in Antigua for rapid deployment across affected areas, while British humanitarian and technical experts are being deployed to coordinate on-the-ground relief efforts.

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper confirmed the funding during a session in Parliament after the matter was raised by Member of Parliament

Diane Abbott, who highlighted the devastation caused by the storm.

"The strong links between the UK and Jamaica mean many British nationals were there during the devastation of the hurricane, and we need to ensure they can get safely home," Cooper said. "The UK government is chartering flights to bolster commercial capacity and ensure people who wish to return to the UK can do so as soon as possible."

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, (FCDO), has also announced that it is chartering several flights from Jamaica for British nationals who are unable to travel commercially due to the hurricane's impact. All British nationals who registered through the Register Your Presence portal will automatically receive



A resident of St. Ann, Jamaica, sits on a bare mattress frame, surrounded by the wreckage of his home after losing his roof and all his belongings in the storm. (Facebook image)

booking details now the airports have reopened.

The UK government is further preparing additional

flights to transport stranded British citizens and boost cargo capacity for relief deliveries. A flight registration form will soon

be launched for British nationals to register their details and interest in evacuation flights.

Meanwhile, two Rapid Deployment Teams will be sent to Jamaica to help facilitate the charter operations and provide consular support to British nationals affected by the hurricane.

In addition, the Royal Navy has a ship on standby to assist regional recovery operations, while the UK Ministry of Defence has deployed a team to the Turks and Caicos Islands to support disaster management efforts across the region.

Cooper said the UK remains committed to helping its Caribbean partners recover swiftly and build resilience against future climate-related disasters.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Amnesty International Urges U.S. Congress To Halt Caribbean Airstrikes

Amnesty International has called on the U.S. Congress to immediately halt military airstrikes in the Caribbean and Latin America, condemning them as "illegal and deadly operations" that have killed at

least over 60 people since early September.

"The U.S. air strikes in Latin America and the Caribbean are unlawful, and Congress must act now to stop the government from carrying out further bombings,"

Amnesty said in a statement.

Daphne Eviatar, Amnesty International USA's Director for Human Rights and Security, accused the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) of executing "a murder spree"

under President Donald Trump's orders.

"The administration has not even named its victims or provided evidence of their alleged crimes," Eviatar said. "Even if they did, intentionally killing people accused of crimes who pose no imminent threat to life is murder - full stop."

Amnesty said 13 airstrikes have been confirmed so far - eight in the Caribbean and five in the Pacific - allegedly targeting so-called "narco-terrorists." However, the organization argued that drug smuggling operations fall under law enforcement jurisdiction, not military warfare.

"Stopping suspected drug boats is a law enforcement operation subject to international human rights law," Eviatar said. "Intentionally killing suspects who do not pose an immediate threat is an extrajudicial execution - a form of murder."

She noted that U.S. officials have not demonstrated that the vessels could not have been intercepted and boarded peacefully, as the U.S. Coast Guard routinely does. She also cited remarks by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who admitted the first targeted vessel could have been stopped without lethal force.

Amnesty's Americas Advocacy Director, Daniel Noroña, added that "the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific are not warzones," rejecting claims that the U.S. is "at war with drug cartels."

"Deploying the army for law enforcement is a hallmark of authoritarianism and has repeatedly led to human rights abuses in Latin America," Noroña said. "These airstrikes send a chilling message of tacit approval for extrajudicial executions."

Amnesty further urged Congress to investigate the chain of command behind the bombings — including Trump and senior administration officials, who have publicly boasted about ordering the strikes.

"Human life cannot be left to the mercy of a ruler's whim," said Ana Piquer, Amnesty International's Americas Director. "No president has the right to kill arbitrarily and without accountability."

The organization called for independent congressional investigations and for those responsible - both policymakers and military operators - to be held accountable under international and U.S. law.



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Government Shutdown And Immigration Uncertainty Cloud Thanksgiving For Caribbean Families

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

This Thanksgiving, many Caribbean American families are facing uncertainty and hardship as the ongoing government shutdown and immigration concerns cast a shadow over what is traditionally a season of gratitude and togetherness.

The nationwide shutdown, which began on October 1, 2025, has left thousands of federal employees without pay and forced layoffs across Florida. The effects are rippling through the community, especially among those who rely on federal benefits to make ends meet.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, (SNAP), benefits will not be issued this month, impacting nearly 42 million Americans, including 2.98 million Floridians - about 12.7% of the state's population.

With Thanksgiving approaching, families are scrambling to find help from food drives and food banks, many of which are already strained by federal funding cuts.

Even if the shutdown ends soon, SNAP benefits won't resume until December, according to Snopes.com, leaving millions struggling to put food on the table. Social Security payments may also face delays, worsening the crisis for elderly and low-income residents.

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, the only Haitian American woman in Congress, condemned what she described as political dysfunction that has left working-class Americans vulnerable.

"Millions of families could starve without SNAP and Social Security benefits," she warned. "I pledged to advocate for my constituents' needs in light of the shutdown's consequences."

In South Florida, local leaders are stepping in to help. Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam announced that the city will distribute 300 turkeys and host a holiday giveaway on November 15th at City Hall.

"As I've done in years past, I'm sharing my portion among local churches to help families enjoy a warm holiday meal," Messam said. "This year, I'm also setting aside about 50 turkeys to support furloughed employees who may be facing a more difficult season."

Miramar Commissioner Carson Edwards, a Jamaican native, echoed those sentiments.

"We have to be mindful of families facing food insecurity, joblessness, and immigration struggles," he told *Caribbean Today*. "Even a kind word can be encouraging as many are in



A volunteer at the Pantry of Broward in Fort Lauderdale. (Facebook image)

despair, not knowing what the future holds."

Beyond the shutdown, immigration fears are also darkening the mood. Claudine Toussaint, a Haitian American mother from Miami, said her family faces possible separation if Temporary Protected Status, (TPS) for Haitians is not renewed before it expires in 2026.

"Their lives here are so much better," she said. "Sending them back to Haiti, with the gang violence and instability, would be devastating. This could be our last Thanksgiving together."

The USDA has already slashed over \$1 billion in funding for food bank programs and canceled \$500 million in deliveries of U.S.-produced meat, dairy, eggs, and produce - further tightening resources for those in need.

With partisan gridlock in Washington over the federal budget and Affordable Care Act funding, millions of Americans - especially within the Caribbean community - are bracing for a Thanksgiving marked by uncertainty, compassion and resilience rather than celebration.

Emergency Food Pantries And Soup Kitchens In Broward County

If you or someone you know needs food assistance during this difficult time, the following emergency food pantries and soup kitchens across Broward County are open and ready to help. Be sure to check each location's schedule and call ahead when required.

- Christ Church – Blessings Food Pantry
100 NE 44th Street, Pompano

Beach, FL 33064
954-771-7300

- Food Pantry: Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Warm Meals: Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- Cokesbury United Methodist Church
1801 NW 65th Avenue, Margate, FL 33063
954-972-3424
- Food Pantry: 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month | 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Bethel Worship Center
6060 Kimberly Blvd, North Lauderdale, FL 33068
954-972-3321
- Food Pantry: Every Thursday | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Call for additional details.
- Gateway Community Outreach
291 SE 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
954-725-8434 |
Fax: 954-725-8436
- Homeless Prevention & Food Program: Must call before visiting.
Hours: Monday – Friday | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
890 NW 15th Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
954-943-2141

- Food Pantry: Wednesday | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
For Pompano Beach residents only. ID required.
Call for more information.
- Temple Beth Orr
2151 Riverside Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33071
(SW corner of Riverside Drive & Royal Palm Blvd – north side of the building)
954-753-3232 |
Fax: 954-753-2559
- Food Pantry: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- St. Ambrose Catholic Church
380 S Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
954-427-2225
- Food Pantry: Every Thursday | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Service available to Deerfield Beach residents only.
- San Isidro Catholic Church
2310 Hammondville Road (Martin Luther King Blvd), Pompano Beach, FL 33069
954-978-2302

Food Deliveries: Saturday only
Call to schedule an appointment.



Miami HEAT And Partners Donate \$1 Million To Support Jamaica's Hurricane Relief Efforts

Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, Caribbean immigration advocates in New York are calling on U.S. President Donald Trump to grant Temporary Protected Status, (TPS), to Jamaicans living in the United States.

The New York Immigration Coalition, (NYIC), which represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights organizations statewide, said the hurricane caused "catastrophic destruction" across Jamaica, leaving homes, businesses, and infrastructure in ruins.

"Everything from homes to local businesses has been destroyed," said Murad Awawdeh, NYIC President and CEO. "Given the scale of this humanitarian crisis, the administration must act urgently to grant TPS to Jamaica, ensuring that the 230,000 Jamaicans in New York can stay without fear of deportation."

Awawdeh emphasized that deporting individuals back to a disaster zone would be "reckless and inhumane," adding that TPS would allow Jamaicans to work legally, support their families, and contribute to recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, in Jamaica, UN Resident Coordinator Dennis Zulu described the destruction as "unlike anything seen before," with widespread infrastructure damage and severe humanitarian



Residents in the parish of St. Ann's are also among those impacted by the hurricane. (Facebook image)

needs. The UN World Food Programme is mobilizing food, shelter, and logistics support to assist affected communities once airports reopen.

As recovery efforts intensify, advocates say granting TPS for Jamaica would provide

stability for immigrants while the island rebuilds from one of the most powerful storms in its history.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Jamaican Roots Designer Grace Wales Bonner Makes History

The fashion world is celebrating a historic moment as Jamaican-roots British designer Grace Wales Bonner has been named Creative Director of Hermès Men's Ready-to-Wear, making her the first Black woman to lead design at a major luxury fashion house. The announcement cements Wales Bonner's reputation as one of the most visionary designers of her generation and marks a new chapter for the nearly two-century-old French brand.

Hermès confirmed the appointment in a statement, saying: "Hermès is pleased to announce the appointment of Grace Wales Bonner as Creative Director of Men's Ready-to-Wear. The Founder and Artistic Director of Wales Bonner has developed a contemporary and innovative approach to menswear over the last 10 years. Passionate about craft and culture, she will present her first collection for Hermès in January 2027."

Pierre-Alexis Dumas, the General Artistic Director of Hermès, praised the designer's global vision and depth of creativity. "I am really pleased to welcome Grace to the Hermès Artistic Director family. Her take on contemporary fashion, craft, and culture will contribute to shaping Hermès men's style, melding the house's heritage with a confident look on the now. Grace's appetite and curiosity for artistic practice strongly resonate with Hermès' creative mindset and approach. We are at the start of an enriching mutual dialogue," Dumas said.

Wales Bonner, the daughter

of a Jamaican immigrant, responded with gratitude and purpose, calling the opportunity "a dream realized."

"I am deeply honored to be entrusted with the role of Creative Director of Hermès Men's Ready-to-Wear," she said. "It is a dream realized to embark on this new chapter, following in a lineage of inspired craftspeople and designers. I wish to express my gratitude to Pierre-Alexis Dumas and Axel Dumas for the opportunity to bring my vision to this magical house."

Wales Bonner succeeds the French designer Véronique Nichanian, 71, who has headed the men's division for 37 years, and her debut collection will be shown in January 2027.

From South London To The World Stage

Born in South London in 1990 to a Jamaican father, who is an attorney, and an English mother, Grace Wales Bonner's dual heritage has been the cornerstone of her artistic voice. Raised between Dulwich and Stockwell, she learned early on how identity, culture, and creativity could coexist in layered harmony. Her paternal grandfather was a tailor who came to the UK as part of the Windrush generation.

After graduating from Central Saint Martins in 2014 with her acclaimed collection "Afrique," she launched her namesake label later that year.



Jamaican-roots British designer Grace Wales Bonner has been named Creative Director of Hermès Men's Ready-to-Wear. (Instagram/Grace Wales Bonner)

Her brand, Wales Bonner, soon became known for blending European tailoring with Afro-Atlantic history, philosophy, and style.

Her collections - often inspired by music, post-colonial theory, and spirituality - earned her the LVMH Young Designer Prize in 2016, the British Fashion Council/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund in 2019, and the CFDA International Men's Designer of the Year in 2021. In 2022, she was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to fashion.

Jamaican Roots, Global Resonance

While based in London and Paris, Wales Bonner has never strayed far from her Caribbean roots. Her Jamaican heritage runs through her creative work - from her music-inspired collections to her collaborations with Adidas, where she reimagined the official Jamaican Football Federation kits. Each design blends heritage,

rhythm, and pride, transforming national identity into global luxury.

Her work celebrates the Caribbean as a site of innovation, not limitation. "My mission," she once said, "is to honor the beauty and intellectual history of the African diaspora through a refined and poetic lens." With Hermès, that mission now steps onto the world's most elite runway. Her collaborations with Adidas Originals are the reason why Samba and Superstar sneakers are now worn by everyone from Rihanna to Rishi Sunak.

A Scholar, Curator, And Cultural Storyteller

Beyond fashion, Wales Bonner's interdisciplinary approach has influenced museums and galleries worldwide. Her 2019 exhibition "A Time for New Dreams" at London's Serpentine Gallery and her 2023 MoMA exhibition "Spirit Movers" explored how art, music, and spirituality intersect in the Black experience. Her shows attracted tens of thousands of visitors and positioned her as a bridge between haute couture and cultural scholarship. In 2019, the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, wore a Wales Bonner white trench dress when she and Prince Harry introduced their son, Archie, to the world. In May, a velvet suit embroidered with cowrie shells from the designer's autumn/winter collection was chosen to be spotlighted at the Met's Costume Institute 2025 exhibition, Superfine: Tailoring Black Style.

At the accompanying Met Gala event, considered one of the most powerful events in fashion and masterminded by Anna Wintour, Wales Bonner made her debut dressing the Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton, the singer FKA twigs and the actor Jeff Goldblum.

A Caribbean Legacy In Paris

As Wales Bonner prepares to debut her first Hermès menswear collection in January 2027, her appointment marks a profound shift in how heritage and identity shape global luxury. She is not just designing clothes; she is redefining what power, creativity, and elegance look like from a diasporic perspective.

For the Caribbean, her ascent is more than symbolic - it's proof that cultural excellence born from Kingston, London, and beyond continues to influence the world's most prestigious stages.

-NewsAmericasNow.com



Caribbean American Authors Set To Shine At 2025 Miami Book Fair To Share Stories Of Culture And Identity

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Headlining the 2025 Miami Book Fair this month will be some of the most prominent and award-winning Caribbean and Caribbean roots authors, ready to share tales of culture, survival and overcoming challenges to achieve their dreams.

The spotlight this year focuses on Haitian born authors Edwidge Danticat and Dr. Judite Blanc; Haitian American Marlene L. Daut; Jamaicans Diana McCaulay and Olive Senior as well as Cuban and Cuban American literature from Elena Sheppard, Alberto Muller, Alejandro Rios and Maria Elena Hernandez Caballero

Among the world's largest literary festivals, the 42nd annual Miami Book Fair is scheduled for November 16th-23rd at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, 300 N.W. 2nd Avenue in Miami.

The event draws thousands of writers and artists from the

U.S. States and beyond as well as fair goers which includes a street fair, literary readings, food and merchandise.

To kick off the festivities, the fair unveiled this year's official poster designed by Ian Teresa-Calleja, a Miami-based artist and graphic design student at New World School of the Arts, (NWSA).

Drawing inspiration from Miami's ever-evolving landscape - from gleaming skyscrapers to revitalized streets and neighborhoods, Teresa-Calleja captures the spirit of transformation. "I wanted to draw a parallel between the city's physical growth and the personal growth we experience through reading," he said. "Books, like cities, help us build new ways of thinking."

Headliners this year will include bestselling novelist Daniel Silva, country star Kenny Chesney, author and television host Padma Lakshmi, writer-director Larry Charles and

Pulitzer Prize-winning artist Art Spiegelman.

Other notable authors will include Carl Hiaasen, Susan Choi, Nnedi Okorafor, and Karen Russell, covering genres from fiction and non-fiction to comics, culinary arts, photography, and young adult literature.

"Miami Book Fair is one of the most internationally diverse literary gatherings in the country, bringing together voices from every corner of the globe," said Lissette Mendez, executive director of Miami Book Fair. "This year's lineup is extraordinary, featuring Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows, National Book Award recipients, and literary stars. It's one of the most ambitious programs we've ever assembled, highlighting literature's power to connect readers with the world's most compelling storytellers."

Danticat is the author of several books including 'Breath Eyes,' 'Memory,' which made Oprah's Book Club selection,



Edwidge Danticat, the award-winning Haitian born author, will be at the 2025 event.

and others that garnered awards and honors. Her work has dealt with themes of national identity, mother-daughter relationships, and diasporic politics.

In 2023, she was named the Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Professor of the Humanities in the department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University. Danticat's creative branching

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A Refugee Program For Whites Only?

Reuters recently reported that the Donald Trump administration is discussing capping U.S. refugee admissions at about 40,000 for the next fiscal year - with a majority of those spots reserved - uhm - for white South Africans. According to the report, "some 30,000 of the 40,000 spaces would be devoted to Afrikaners," the primarily Dutch-descended minority in South Africa that Trump officials claim - without evidence - are victims of racial discrimination and violence at the hands of majority-Black South Africans. Let's pause there.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

The ancestors of these same Afrikaners arrived in South Africa in 1652, and by the 20th century, their nationalism gave rise to the National Party, the architects of apartheid - one of the most brutal, government-sanctioned systems of racial oppression in modern history. Under their rule, millions of Black South Africans were stripped of land, dignity, education, and even citizenship.

After decades of domestic struggle and global sanctions, apartheid officially ended with South Africa's first multiracial elections in 1994, when Nelson Mandela became president. The National Party - the same one that enforced apartheid - was eventually dissolved in 2005. Today, there are about 2.7 to 3 million Afrikaners, roughly 4 to 5 percent of South Africa's population. Yet, they continue to hold a disproportionate share of the country's wealth. Studies show that White households - which include Afrikaners - still control the vast majority of South Africa's wealth, while Black households own only five cents for every rand held by their White counterparts. The top 10 percent of South Africans own 85 percent of the nation's wealth - and that top tier remains overwhelmingly White. So, these are the so-called

Cursed Forever?

A curse is a terrible thing, as it inflicts great harm on the person who is cursed, and gives great power to the one who is inflicting that curse. And to make it worse, sometimes those curses don't go away when the person dies but are passed down from generation to generation. Cursed forever.



TONY ROBINSON

"victims" the Trump administration wants to prioritize as refugees?

Reuters reported that the White House has even debated whether non-White South Africans could qualify for the refugee program. Meanwhile, the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act as published on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services site, clearly defines who qualifies as a refugee:

"Under United States law, a refugee is someone who:

- Is located outside of the United States;
- Is of special humanitarian concern to the United States;
- Demonstrates that they were persecuted or fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;
- Is not firmly resettled in another country;
- Is admissible to the United States.

A refugee does not include anyone who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

But the administration's goal is unmistakable: to Make America Whiter.

And let's be clear - I didn't say "White Again." Because America was never white. It was brown and Indigenous long before any European colonizers arrived.

Yet, according to the administration, these descendants of apartheid's architects are now the ones in need of rescue. The irony is as thick as it gets.

However, so far, only 93 Afrikaners have been admitted to the United States as refugees since May. The first group of 59 reportedly received the red-carpet treatment in May, followed by 34 more as of early August, according to a White House official.

But even that honeymoon is wearing thin. Some of the new arrivals have already complained about a lack of government benefits - apparently unaware that Trump gutted refugee support programs after

taking office. One member of that initial group even emailed the Department of Health and Human Services two weeks after arrival, pleading for help to get a Social Security number and work permit.

Oh, the irony.

Welcome to America, Afrikaners! You're learning quickly that the promises of your political savior come with a twist. You're not being

"rescued" - you're being used as pawns in a cynical game meant to re-engineer America's demographics.

But even for you, the welcome mat stops at the border. The same anti-immigrant system that cages children, slashes benefits, revokes greencards, TPS and refugee status, and shatters families is now turning its cold face your way. You may be white, but you're still

immigrants - and in Donald Trump's America, that's crime enough.

Felicia J. Persaud is the founder and publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, the only daily newswire and digital platform dedicated exclusively to Caribbean Diaspora and Black immigrant news across the Americas.



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VIEWPOINT



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Law, Power And The Caribbean's Test Of Unity - In Face Of U.S. Military Action

BY SIR RONALD SANDERS

Four days after the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government reaffirmed the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago startled the region with a public statement that CARICOM should "get together" and take some of the "illegal Venezuelans" sheltering in her country, and that the Community should press Caracas to accept two hundred Venezuelans now in Trinidad's prisons.

She went further, saying that if any CARICOM state withdrew support for Trinidad's foreign-policy ambitions because of her stance, "she did not care."

The remark appeared to be an exasperated - and sarcastic - response to the joint statement of her CARICOM colleagues: a perhaps intemperate reminder that Trinidad and Tobago bears one of the heaviest per-capita burdens in CARICOM of Venezuelan migration and the trans-Caribbean narcotics trade.

It was a sharp political riposte that unsettled the harmony of CARICOM's communiqué of October 18th, which sought to reaffirm the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace amid unilateral U.S. military action against alleged narco-traffickers off the coasts of Venezuela and Colombia.

In the Caribbean, small states value regional unity, yet face national pressures that make collaboration with other powers tempting. Many have done so from time to time. Therefore, while the position and tone of Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar's statement are troubling, every government in the region knows the regular

calculus between adhering to regional positions and putting national interest first.

But understanding cannot mean silence when the boundary line is crossed. If the Caribbean's response to migration, crime, and security becomes a chorus of individual voices - each pitched to its own domestic concerns - then the collective shield that should define CARICOM will splinter. Disunity weakens the strength of the regional collective.

No CARICOM state benefits, for none has the capacity to cope in a world where the might of the powerful is continuously imposed.

CARICOM's survival has always rested on the discipline of acting within international law, never outside it. Cooperation with larger democracies has served the region well when kept squarely within the framework of law. When cooperation with larger partners begins to place their priorities over the region's, partnership turns into proxy, and sovereignty erodes.

The problem is not that Trinidad and Tobago drew attention to its burden; it is that the regional discourse slipped from coordination to confrontation. The duty to readmit nationals belongs to the state of origin - in this case, Venezuela. Burden-sharing among CARICOM members is a political choice, not a legal one, and cannot be imposed by rhetoric. To conflate the two is to replace law with leverage.

None of this denies the need for action. Crime, trafficking, and uncontrolled migration are real threats. But security built outside of law inevitably turns inward; lawlessness cannot be

disguised as necessity.

The October 18 CARICOM statement warned against "security build-ups in the region" that could disturb peace or sovereignty. It was a caution, not a command. The message was that CARICOM states can cooperate with larger partners - indeed they must - but under clear agreements, transparent mandates, and regional consent. That is how a Zone of Peace becomes more than a phrase on paper.

Properly understood, the Zone of Peace limits the reach of power, not the reach of justice. It forbids aggression between states, not the pursuit of traffickers and lawbreakers. Yes, any external lunge at regime change in Venezuela would ripple across the region - law and prudence both counsel restraint. But restraint runs in two directions: Venezuela must also meet its obligations - consular access, travel documents, and the readmission of its own nationals - while CARICOM holds its line on

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

the children, so if you believe that sins are passed down from generation to generation, the generational curse is not that farfetched.

If you may notice, some families may have a similar vein of negative occurrences that always seem to affect them. One is early teenage pregnancy. Every generation of young girls in the family gets pregnant from an early age.

Grandma had her first child at age fifteen, that daughter had hers at the same age, and that daughter's daughter also had her baby at the same age. "My word, is like de whole a dem curse, breed from dem is likkle pickney."

Still, some may not call it a curse, as the babies may be most welcome, but others may see it quite differently, as the men don't usually stick around after, leaving the women to bear the onerous burden of being a single mother.

And speaking of women being left and not being able to hold a man, that too is often seen to be a generational curse. Many women meet men, settle down, get married. For others though, it's a revolving door of countless men traipsing in and out of their lives, as they simply cannot seem to hold on to even one man.

When it affects one woman, it's happenstance or luck of the draw, but when it affects almost all of the women in the same family, it defies all laws of probability or coincidence and the shadow of a curse looms large. The men do not escape this generational curse. If you speak with some sociologists or policemen who are active in

legality and consultation.

CARICOM's partnerships with all bigger countries endure best when they are squarely within law, and CARICOM unity holds when it tolerates legitimate national concerns.

CARICOM's cohesion has always contained diversity. Geography, aid, and commerce dictate that some members will align more closely with some external powers than others. That diversity is not betrayal; it is reality. But collective sovereignty - our ability to act as one where it matters - requires tolerance of those national variations without permitting them to unravel the whole.

The test is whether the Community can absorb it without tearing itself apart. But a necessary condition is that leaders must keep the entrancement of local control at bay; it is unsustainable for small states.

Leaders declared CARICOM a "Community of Sovereign States"; too often, emphasis has fallen on

Sovereignty at the expense of Community, accentuating individual weaknesses and deepening external dependence. However, if CARICOM truly wants to keep the Caribbean a Zone of Peace - and it should, because its economies and the well-being of its people depend on it - its members must now commit, more than ever, to regular consultation and to regional positions that account for each other's specific circumstances as well as their regional commitments.

CARICOM's strength lies in the willingness of its member states to speak in concert when it counts—and to keep that concert squarely within the law.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own.



Cursed Forever?



crime scenes, they will tell you that many generations are cursed with the sins of the fathers being passed down to the sons. "His father was shot and killed, as was his father before him, and now so is he, cursed to the bitter end."

Some may say that it's a societal problem, nature versus nurture why some generations of young men end up the same way. Others will insist that it's a generational curse. The son acts like a rabid wolf, biting everyone who he sees, cursed forever.

The reality is some families just seem to be afflicted by some sort of curse that never seems to go away. There are young women of the same family who just can't seem to get pregnant no matter how hard they try. Are those biological, physiological, psychological factors, or just plain old-time generational curses?

Why is it that some men are always cheated on by their women, just as their fathers

were, and no matter how many different women they choose, they always end up getting cheated on?

Also, some women always have bad luck with men, and when you hear them speak, it's always the man's fault why the relationship crashed and burned. Is it really bad luck, bearing in mind that the mothers suffered the same fate?

But in the same way that there are curses, there are also blessings, and I firmly believe in generational blessings. So, while some people may be cursed forever, many are blessed forever too.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson is an independent contributor to Caribbean Today and the views expressed here are his own. He can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com for feedback.



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Jamaican Entertainers Step Up To Help As Hurricane Melissa Devastates Jamaica

Jamaican entertainers at home and abroad are rallying to support their country in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, the most powerful storm ever to hit the island.

Leading the charge is Grammy Award-winning musician Shaggy, who has teamed up with Orlando attorney Dan Newlin to fly in emergency aid using two private jets. Together, they are delivering water, medicine, flashlights, and other essentials to some of Jamaica's hardest-hit communities. From a private hangar at Miami International Airport, one of the first planes bound for Kingston was loaded with hundreds of pounds of



Shaggy hands out donations in Black River Jamaica. (Jamaica Gleaner image)

supplies on Oct. 30th.

"My country has been devastated by this," Shaggy told NBC6. "My wife was on the ground at our home in Jamaica, and the destruction was horrendous."

The musician, born Orville Burrell in Kingston, personally organized two flights that arrived on Oct. 30th with a third scheduled for Nov. 1st. The aircraft landed in Kingston before distributing supplies in coordination with local relief teams.

"They don't have the infrastructure that we do. So, we've been blessed to live the American dream in different ways. This is our time to give back," Attorney Newlin said.

Officials confirmed that several of Jamaica's airports have reopened to receive relief flights. Known for his deep philanthropic work, including raising over JMD \$100 million for the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Shaggy's latest effort reinforces his reputation as both an artist and humanitarian. His arrival with much-needed aid has been met with gratitude and praise from citizens and government officials alike.

Sean Paul Launches \$50,000 Matching Fund for Relief Efforts



Sean Paul packs donations at a Food For The Poor site. (Sean Paul/Facebook image)

Meanwhile, Jamaica dancehall superstar Sean Paul has also joined the recovery efforts, pledging to match donations up to US\$50,000 through his Sean Paul Foundation, in partnership with Food For The Poor Jamaica.

In a heartfelt Instagram video, Paul urged fans around the world to contribute: "My island Jamaica is going through a tough time right now. Hurricane Melissa has caused a lot of damage. People are misplaced, people are hurt, people are without help right now. I'm just

asking from your heart, if you can give to the country that has given you so much - for your entertainment and peace of mind."

Paul's foundation is working to deliver humanitarian aid to the most affected areas, focusing on food, water, and shelter for displaced families.

Beenie Man, Spice, and Lady Saw Join the Movement

Dancehall legend Beenie Man is mobilizing his Beenie Man Foundation Crisis Rescue Team to assist residents, particularly in rural communities cut off by flooding and landslides.



Beenie Man has stepped up to help those in need.

Posting a serene morning video of the sky after the storm, Beenie Man shared a message

of faith and resilience: "Grateful for life and calm after Hurricane Melissa. Start your day with love and help out a neighbor who needs assistance. Together we will rebuild."

Meanwhile, Spice announced that her Grace Hamilton Women Empowerment Foundation is coordinating direct assistance and urged those in need to email gracehamiltonfoundation@gmail.com.

In another powerful act of generosity, Lady Saw offered to open her eight-bedroom home to single mothers with babies who have lost everything in the storm.

A Nation Of Stars, United In Service

From corporate partners and diaspora donors to Jamaica's biggest music icons, the outpouring of support underscores the country's enduring spirit of solidarity. As the nation begins the long road to recovery, these entertainers are proving that when the music stops, the mission to uplift Jamaica continues.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



Chronixx Returns With Exile - A Glorious Rebirth For Reggae Music

Chronixx is back - and reggae music feels whole again. The Jamaican artist who helped redefine modern roots reggae has returned with 'Exile,' his long-awaited sophomore album, and the world is listening. Released unexpectedly on October 10th, the 17-track project arrived without hype or a headline single - just pure conviction, artistry, and spirit. Within hours, it shot straight to No. 1 on the U.S. Reggae iTunes Chart, proof that in a noisy digital age, authenticity still cuts through.

Released under his own Forever Living Originals label, 'Exile' carries a symbolic name - a meditation on solitude, self-work, and spiritual grounding. Chronixx, now 33, has spent years away from the spotlight. That silence, it seems, was preparation. This isn't an artist chasing streams; this is a man returning home to his calling.

A Global Homecoming

Even without promotion, Exile resonated far beyond Jamaica. On Apple Music, the album entered charts across continents - No. 5 in Seychelles, No. 9 in Mauritius, No. 10 in Kenya, and No. 15 in Malawi, with similar traction across Europe and Asia. On iTunes, it hit No. 1 in Trinidad & Tobago, No. 2 in the Cayman Islands and Poland, and landed in the Top 25 in the U.K. and Germany. That reach underscores what reggae

has always been - global, healing, and borderless.

The drop also coincided with Chronixx's birthday - a serendipitous alignment fans dubbed "Chronixx Day." Across X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, the celebration felt like a family reunion. One fan wrote, "This is more than an album; this is a spiritual moment." Another added, "Chronixx has given us a classic. Mad respect!"

Recording artist Devin Di Dakta captured the mood perfectly: "It's a true Jamaican Sunday back in a di day — music a play loud, yard a sweep, Sunday dinner a cook. Home, family, love, joy."

Back To The Roots, Forward With Vision

While Chronology (2017) made Chronixx an international name, Exile feels like a reclamation. The production leans analog - warm basslines, live horns, and stripped-back arrangements that honor the 1970s spirit of reggae while sounding defiantly current. There's growth, yes, but not distance; he hasn't abandoned the roots, he's deepened them.

Tracks like "Family First," "Keep On Rising," "Resilient," and "Don't Be Afraid" stand out - soulful affirmations wrapped in intricate rhythm. Fans praise their sincerity: uplifting without



Chronixx is back with a new album, eight years after Chronology. (Facebook image/Chronixx)

being naïve, conscious without being preachy.

As one listener posted: "On this new album, he went back - like 70s beats, more live and analogue. It worked!"

Another echoed: "Chronixx was trying to do something different with Exile - and it worked."

That collective approval speaks volumes. In a landscape dominated by viral singles, Chronixx released a 17-track album as one complete story - a bold artistic statement and a subtle act of rebellion.

Faith, Family, And Frequency

More than a record, Exile feels like a frequency - a spiritual recalibration. Chronixx sings not just to the ear but to the soul, urging listeners to reconnect with truth and self. The album's

sonic palette - meditative drums, ethereal harmonies, and grounded lyricism - mirrors the internal journey many in his generation are walking.

For the reggae community, it's also validation. The genre often fights for space in a digital world that rewards quick content over timeless craft. But Exile's success proves that depth still sells — and that the reggae faithful remain a global force.

A Return That Feels Like Renewal

Eight years after Chronology, Exile isn't a sequel;

it's a rebirth. It shows that patience and purpose still matter in music - that silence can be strategy, and introspection can fuel innovation.

In Exile, Chronixx reminds us that reggae isn't just rhythm - it's revelation. It's the sound of a people who've turned struggle into song and faith into fuel. And now, with his return, reggae's next chapter begins where it always has - in truth, vibration, and love.

- NewsAmericasnow.com



New Orleans Reggae Fest Turns Into Benefit For Jamaica

As Jamaicans braced for the destructive force of Hurricane Melissa, the sounds of reggae and community spirit united in New Orleans with a powerful new purpose.

"This was supposed to be the eighth year of the New Orleans Reggae Fest, but with the inclement weather, we had to pivot and reschedule to November 14th and 15th," said festival organizer Joel Hitchcock.

The cancellation inspired Hitchcock to act. With Hurricane Melissa battering Jamaica and stranding several of the festival's Jamaican performers due to flight cancellations, he decided to transform the delay into a benefit concert to raise funds for storm

victims.

"We had a lot of artists who couldn't make it because their flights were delayed or canceled," Hitchcock explained. "If you have an opportunity to help people, it's always a good thing to do - especially with New Orleans being the northernmost city in the Caribbean."

Hitchcock, who also owns Paradigm Gardens in New Orleans, said the Oct. 28th event featured live reggae music, Caribbean food, and local performances, with all proceeds going directly to grassroots organizations in Jamaica helping those affected by the storm.



Trinidadian Who Managed The Beatles Spotlighted In Liverpool Exhibition

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Did you know The Beatles' first manager was from Trinidad and Tobago? Harold Phillips, a calypsonian known as Lord Woodbine, was his name and he lived for many years in their native Liverpool.

That is one of the stories patrons who visit 'Toxteth: The Harlem of Europe' will discover. The exhibition at the University of Liverpool's Victoria Gallery & Museum, featuring photographs from Ean Flanders, opened on October 11th and is scheduled to close on April 26, 2026.

It sheds light on the impact West Indians had in Liverpool,



Photographer Ean Flanders' works will be on exhibition at the University of Liverpool's Victoria Gallery & Museum. (Contributed image)



Trinidadian born Harold Phillips, known as calypsonian Lord Woodbine, he was the first mentor and manager of The Beatles. (Windrush Foundation image/Leeds Beckett University)

world-famous for producing The Beatles and rock band Oasis, and of course, the many-time English football champions.

The exhibition features photos from the 1950s and 1960s of West Indian musicians and their favorite haunts, as well as portraits of their descendants. Through these snapshots, visitors meet artists who kept the West

Indian vibe in Liverpool. They include Ramon "Sugar Deen" from The Harlems, Joe Ankrah and Alan Harding from The Chants, Distinction, a female harmony group, Chris Amoo and Dave Smith from The Real Thing, Garry Christian from The Christians, and Ramon Judah.

Lord Woodbine, who was born in Laventille, Port of Spain, is an interesting story. He served

in the Royal Air Force during World War II, but returned to Trinidad in 1947, two years after that conflict ended.

In June 1948, he was among the hundreds of West Indians who arrived in the United Kingdom on the HMT Empire Windrush. He became a fixture in Liverpool as an artist and show promoter, which is how he met an early version of The Beatles in the late 1950s.

Lord Woodbine was the quartet's first mentor and manager, and escorted John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison, (Ringo Starr had not joined yet), to a show in Hamburg, Germany in August 1960. Their relationship ended one year later, reportedly over financial differences.

Lord Woodbine eventually gave up the music business. He and his wife Helen died in a fire at their Toxteth home in July 2020. He was 71.



Cedella Marley Donates \$10K As Bob & Rita Marley Foundation Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund Gets Going

The Bob and Rita Marley Foundation's Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund is rapidly gaining support as donations pour in from around the world to assist Jamaica's recovery.

The Foundation's GoFundMe campaign, launched to aid victims of Hurricane Melissa, has now raised nearly USD \$30,000 toward its \$250,000 goal. Among the most notable contributors is Cedella Marley, daughter of the late reggae legend Bob Marley and his wife Rita Marley, who personally donated \$10,000, making her the campaign's top donor so far.

Joining the effort is Jamaican-born UFC fighter Aljamain "Funk Master" Sterling, who contributed \$5,000, underscoring the global Jamaican community's commitment to helping those affected by the

deadly storm.

"Every dollar raised on this fundraiser will be delivered to trusted organizations and local response efforts throughout Jamaica," organizers stated on the campaign page.

In their appeal, the Foundation emphasized unity and gratitude:

"Jamaica has given the world so much — music, champions, and culture that moves hearts everywhere. Now it's time for us to give back. Let's stand together as one global family to bring relief, recovery, and renewed strength to the island we love."

According to the campaign, funds will be used to provide emergency supplies such as clothing and hygiene items to affected families, as well as to support rebuilding efforts through the distribution of roofing kits to homeowners who

suffered structural damage.

Each roofing kit, valued at US\$3,800, includes zinc, lumber, nails, screws, and on-site installation by a certified technician. The Foundation says it will work closely with local partners to ensure equitable distribution of aid across communities in need.

Hurricane Melissa has left a trail of destruction across Jamaica, displacing thousands and devastating key infrastructure. The Foundation's initiative aims to bring tangible, immediate relief to those struggling to rebuild their lives.

To donate or learn more, visit the official campaign page: <https://www.gofundme.com/t/the-bob-and-rita-marley-foundation-relief-fund>

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Peter Tosh Biopic In The Works, Says Daughter Niambe McIntosh

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

A movie about the life of Peter Tosh, the fiery reggae singer and advocate for the legalization of marijuana, is in the works according to his daughter Niambe McIntosh.

In an interview with Caribbean Today, McIntosh said talks are ongoing with directors and screenplay writers. The 44-year-old Niambe, who lives in Boston, was in Jamaica in October for Tosh Fest, a show honoring her father's legacy in his native Westmoreland parish. Tosh, an original member of The Wailers with Bob Marley and Bunny Wailer, was murdered at his Kingston home in September 1987 at age 42.

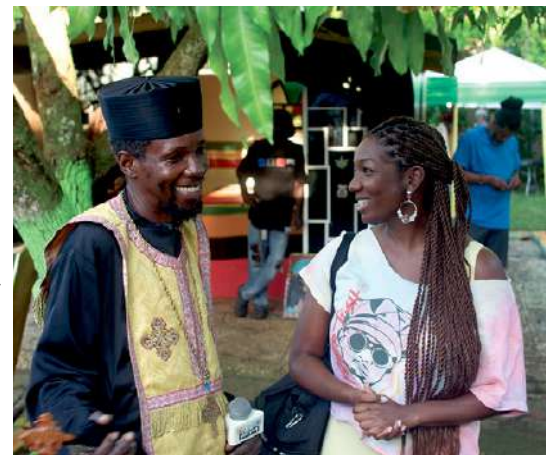
"We've got a few different directors come on board, but he's (Peter), a phenomenon, so when I see different scripts, it has to convey all that he is, and obviously that can take some time," she disclosed.

Eighteen months ago, 'Bob Marley: One Love,' the Paramount Pictures biopic, was released. Starring British actor Kingsley Ben-Adir as Marley, it made over \$180 million despite getting mixed reviews.

There was only fleeting mention of Tosh and other Marley associates, but Niambe was struck by the enthusiastic response to the movie which ignited even more interest in Marley's story, 43 years after his death.

Tosh was born Peter McIntosh. He moved to Kingston as a teenager and lived in Trench Town, a tough ghetto, where

Marley and Wailer were also residents. In the early 1960s, they formed The Wailing Wailers with Junior Braithwaite, Cherry Smith and Beverley Kelso. They had hits with ska songs like It Hurts to Be Alone and Simmer Down, before Braithwaite, Smith



Peter Tosh's daughter, Niambe McIntosh, is developing a film to celebrate and preserve her father's powerful legacy.

and Kelso left.

As The Wailers, Tosh, Marley and Wailer made strides with early reggae songs such as 'Small Axe,' 'Duppy Conqueror' and 'Mr. Brown.' After recording two albums for Island Records, Tosh and Wailer went on to solo careers.

Tosh's solo work includes the landmark albums, 'Legalize It,' and 'Equal Rights.'

Niambe, who was born in Kingston, was raised in Boston where her mother is from. Six years-old when her father was killed, spreading his message is a priority for her. "I'm an educator and I see my father and I sharing that identity," she shared. "I taught in the classrooms. However, he used music as a tool to educate and empower people, so for me it's very personal as all of the messages in his songs, from 'African to I Am That I Am,' liberate people."



VP Music Group Partners With Jamaica Consulate To Support Hurricane Relief Efforts

VP Music Group has joined forces with the Consulate General of Jamaica, New York, to help coordinate the collection and delivery of relief items for families affected by Hurricane Melissa.

VP Records Retail, located at 170-19 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY, is now an official donation drop-off site, open Monday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Check the needs list at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/lfsqf/pyin/#p=4>

The Government of Jamaica

has also launched an official relief portal to facilitate monetary donations that will go toward food, shelter, medical care, and other essential recovery needs. Log on at <https://support.jamaica.gov.jm/?kx=A0W-2DaB9jNkLqW9iiE1M-PJSIIte-1ChJqMJxBSdR43c.ULRawb>

VP Music Group expressed gratitude to all supporters, saying: "Together, we can help Jamaica recover and rebuild stronger."



Healthy Thanksgiving: Delicious, Diabetes-Friendly Recipes For A Flavorful Feast

Having diabetes doesn't mean you have to miss out on the joy, flavor, and togetherness of Thanksgiving. With a few smart choices and fresh ingredients, you can enjoy every bite of your holiday meal while keeping your blood sugar in check.

This Thanksgiving, the Diabetes Food Hub offers a collection of balanced, diabetes-friendly recipes perfect for the holiday table - from savory side dishes to flavorful entrées. The key? Building your meal using the Diabetes Plate Method: fill half your plate with non-starchy vegetables, one-quarter with lean protein like turkey or tofu, and the final quarter with healthy carbs such as sweet potatoes, winter squash, or whole-grain stuffing.

Here are three delicious, blood sugar-friendly recipes to try this season:

Brussels Sprouts With Oranges



Bright, crunchy, and full of zest, this dish brings a colorful touch to your table.

Ingredients:

Brussels sprouts, shallots, walnuts, olive oil, and orange.

Instructions:

Toast walnuts, sauté shallots and sprouts until browned, then toss with orange zest and segments. Finish with salt,

pepper, and a sprinkle of walnuts for crunch.

Herb Bread Stuffing



(Diabetes Food Hub image)

A hearty, aromatic classic made lighter for the holiday.

Ingredients:

Olive oil, celery, onion, diced apple, poultry seasoning, low-sodium broth, and unseasoned stuffing cubes.

Instructions:

Sauté the vegetables, mix with apple, herbs, and stock, then bake until golden. Choose uncovered for crisp stuffing or cover with foil for a softer texture.

Spiced Turkey Breast With Apple Chutney



(Diabetes Food Hub image)

A festive centerpiece bursting with warm spices and sweet-savory chutney.

Ingredients:

Turkey breast, orange juice, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, allspice, onion, brown sugar, vinegar, raisins, and apples.

Instructions:

Rub the turkey with a spiced citrus marinade, roast until tender, and serve with a homemade apple chutney for a perfect balance of sweet and tangy.

This holiday, focus on balance, color, and moderation - and remember, healthy eating can still be full of flavor. A well-planned, mindful Thanksgiving meal can nourish the body and spirit alike.

For more diabetes-friendly recipes and tips, visit DiabetesFoodHub.org.



Top 15 Caribbean Restaurants You Need To Know In 2025

The Caribbean's culinary scene is in full bloom, and this year's Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Best of the Best awards confirm it. From cliffside fine dining to beachside elegance, the 2025 list of the region's top 15 Caribbean restaurants celebrates the chefs and teams turning island ingredients into world-class experiences.

1. Elements Restaurant – Aruba

Overlooking Eagle Beach, Elements serves sustainable seafood and locally grown produce with precision and care. Each dish feels crafted by hand — from vibrant vegetarian mains to the fresh catch of the day. Friendly service and fair prices make this an easy repeat visit for travelers chasing Aruba sunsets.

2. La Yola Restaurant – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Floating above turquoise waters, La Yola offers an unforgettable blend of Latin and Caribbean flavors. Fresh seafood dominates the menu, complemented by live music and impeccable service. Whether celebrating a milestone or savoring a quiet evening, this is one of the DR's most romantic spots.

3. Ave Restaurant – Seven Mile Beach, Cayman Islands

Ave delivers Mediterranean-inspired dining with a Caribbean twist inside the Kimpton Seafire Resort. Its oceanfront setting, seafood plates, and deep rum and wine list make it a standout for culinary travelers seeking modern island sophistication.

4. Koal Restaurant – Oranjestad, Aruba

Set inside a historic building, Koal charms guests with its wood-fired dishes, striking plating, and signature wine pairings. Each course feels like a conversation between chef and guest — creative, authentic, and personal.

5. CHEFS Bonaire – Kralendijk, Bonaire

Intimate and interactive, CHEFS Bonaire seats diners around an open kitchen where the chefs prepare and serve every course. The small size means reservations are coveted, but the experience - inventive menus, personal storytelling, and stellar wines - is worth every effort.

6. Atardi - Palm Beach, Aruba

Dinner barefoot on the sand defines Atardi's allure. As

live music drifts through the evening breeze, guests indulge in lobster, steak, and freshly caught fish while the sun sets over the Caribbean Sea. It's quintessential island romance.

7. Fred Royal Aruba - Oranjestad, Aruba

Fred Royal Aruba turns dinner into performance art. Expect five-star cuisine with wine pairings, personal attention, and an atmosphere that feels more like a dinner party than a restaurant. A must for those seeking fine dining with heart.

8. Isla Blue Restaurant – St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

A sleek oceanfront venue offering the freshest seafood on the island. From creative daily specials to signature cocktails, Isla Blue captures the spirit of Caribbean coastal dining with elegance and ease.

9. AVECITA – Seven Mile Beach, Cayman Islands

AVECITA offers a chef's-counter experience where small plates meet big flavors. Watch chefs sear, smoke, and plate dishes right before your eyes. Book early — there are only a handful of seats.

10. Changers Restaurant -

Barbados

Chic yet relaxed, Changers blends fine dining with art and island charm. The menu celebrates bold Caribbean flavors using local ingredients, while the adjoining art gallery adds cultural flair to every meal.

11. Marmalade Restaurant & Wine Bar - San Juan, Puerto Rico

Known for its inventive tasting menus and extensive wine list, Marmalade fuses Caribbean produce with global techniques. Diners rave about its 14-course experience and elegant, upbeat atmosphere.

12. Fangio Habana – Havana, Cuba

A hidden gem where jazz, good wine, and flavorful cuisine collide. Fangio Habana's leafy patio and creative menu have made it one of Havana's most beloved fine-dining escapes.

13. The Meena House – Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

A modern Indian-Caribbean fusion restaurant that blends spice, music, and warmth. From aromatic curries to decadent desserts, The Meena House is redefining fine dining in Trinidad.

14. The Waterlot – Bermuda

This historic waterfront steakhouse pairs old-world sophistication with island hospitality. Whether it's perfectly grilled local fish or prime cuts of beef, every dish is plated with flair and precision.

15. Bistrot Caraibes – Grand Case, St. Martin

French elegance meets island ease at Bistrot Caraibes. Its signature Lobster Thermidor and classic French desserts have made it a culinary icon - and a mainstay on fine-dining bucket lists.

A Culinary Renaissance

The Caribbean is no longer just a destination for beaches - it's a destination for gastronomy. These restaurants combine authenticity, innovation, and hospitality, proving the region's kitchens can compete with the world's best. From the barefoot tables of Aruba to the candlelit courtyards of Havana, fine dining in the Caribbean has never tasted so good.

- NewsAmericaNow.com



Most of us try to attract other people by the friends we keep and the way we carry ourselves.
If you are going to a party or a formal function, don't you dress well?
We all want to promote a favorable impression of ourselves to other people we meet and talk to.
If we agree on that, then think of this. Why should it be any different for your business?
If you want to project a favorable image of your company, in order to win customers, you should keep your company with good friends and...dress your company well in...

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Peter A. Webley
Publisher

HEALTH NEWS



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November Marks National Diabetes Month - Here's How You Can Prevent, Detect And Manage The Disease

November is National Diabetes Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about how diabetes affects millions of Americans and emphasizing the importance of prevention through healthy lifestyle choices.

In 2024, the focus is on prevention - highlighting that many cases of type 2 diabetes can be avoided or delayed with diet, exercise, and regular health screenings. Diabetes, a condition marked by high blood sugar levels, currently affects about 38 million people in the United States, yet 1 in 5 are unaware they have it.

The financial and health toll is staggering. Diabetes costs Americans an estimated \$413 billion annually in medical expenses and lost wages. People with diabetes face more than double the medical costs of



Working out is a great way to prevent and manage diabetes. (CDC image)

those without the condition and are at greater risk for blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, and limb amputations.

Pre-Diabetes: The Warning

Sign

Another 98 million U.S. adults have prediabetes, a condition where blood sugar levels are elevated but not yet

in the diabetes range. More than 80% of those with prediabetes don't know they have it. The good news? Simple lifestyle changes - like losing 5-7% of body weight, eating healthier, and getting 150 minutes of physical activity a week- can cut the risk of developing type 2 diabetes in half.

Spotting Hidden Sugars And Building Better Habits

Experts urge people to read nutrition labels carefully to avoid hidden sugars in foods such as sauces, cereals, flavored yogurts, and beverages. Choosing whole foods, cooking at home, and drinking water instead of sweetened drinks can dramatically lower blood sugar levels over time.

Living Well With Diabetes

For those already diagnosed, daily management is key. This includes healthy eating, staying active, monitoring blood sugar, managing stress, and keeping up with regular doctor visits. The CDC encourages participation in Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, (DSMES) programs, which teach skills to live a longer, healthier life.

This National Diabetes Month, health professionals are reminding Americans: "Know your risk, get tested, and take charge of your health." Early detection and small, consistent lifestyle changes can make all the difference.



Three Jamaica Hospitals Impacted By Melissa



Damage to the Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth was extensive. (Facebook image)

The Jamaica Ministry of Health & Wellness has announced that all health centers will remain closed until further notice as assessments continue in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

The following hospitals have been severely impacted and are unable to accept patients:

- Black River Hospital (St. Elizabeth)
- Noel Holmes Hospital (Hanover)
- Falmouth Hospital (Trelawny)

However, some hospitals remain open but operating in emergency mode, providing only critical and life-saving care. Non-emergency services are temporarily suspended while staff manage urgent cases and stabilize operations amid ongoing power and infrastructure challenges.

Patients with clinic

appointments scheduled for this week are asked not to visit health centers until facilities are declared safe. New appointment dates will be shared once services resume.

Those with chronic illnesses and in urgent need of medication are advised to monitor local radio and official Ministry channels for updates on mobile pharmacy and outreach services.

The Ministry said it is coordinating with regional health authorities and the National Emergency Operations Centre to restore full services quickly and safely and urges the public to stay alert to official updates or contact the Health Emergency Operations Centre at 888-ONE-LOVE (888-663-5683) for more information.



Jamaica Health Ministry Urges Blood Donations

The Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness is appealing to Jamaicans to donate blood as soon as it's safe to do so, after Hurricane Melissa severely disrupted national blood collection and storage operations.

According to the National Blood Transfusion Service, (NBTS), the storm halted several blood drives and delayed deliveries to hospitals, leaving supplies critically low for

surgeries, trauma cases, and childbirth emergencies.

"We are urging all Jamaicans who are able to give blood. Your donation can save lives, especially at a time when hospitals are still in emergency mode and every unit counts," said Dr. Jacqueline Bisor-McKenzie, Chief Medical Officer. The public is advised to wait until roads are cleared before donating, and to eat well,

rest, stay hydrated and bring a valid ID when visiting a blood bank.

Donations are currently being accepted at the NBTS headquarters, 21 Slipe Road, Kingston, with additional sites to be announced on the Ministry's official and NBTS social media pages.



Jamaica To Set Up Field Hospitals After Hurricane Melissa Devastates Health Facilities

The Government of Jamaica plans to establish field hospitals across five western parishes following extensive damage to medical facilities caused by Hurricane Melissa, Health Minister Dr. Christopher Tufton announced on Oct. 31st.

Tufton said that additional support was urgently needed for doctors and nurses who have been working nonstop under extreme conditions since the Category 5 storm battered the island earlier this week.

"Many of our frontline

workers are exhausted, and with hospitals heavily impacted, we must move quickly to restore healthcare access," Tufton said. Power and water supplies remain disrupted in multiple parishes due to widespread infrastructure damage, while fuel shortages were reported at gas stations in western Jamaica, according to Transport Minister Daryl Vaz.

Authorities, with assistance from international partners, have launched a nationwide cleanup and relief operation to speed up humanitarian aid delivery.

Medical associations have urged doctors to volunteer at Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth, one of the hardest-hit areas, where staff have been working for days in damaged facilities without relief.

At least 50 people have died across the Caribbean, including 19 in Jamaica, as Melissa left a trail of destruction across Haiti, Cuba, and Jamaica before weakening over the Atlantic.

- *Rewritten from the AP*



Cayman Islands Sends Lifesaving Blood Donation To Jamaica After Hurricane Melissa

The Government of Jamaica The Cayman Islands Blood Bank has sent a critical shipment of 51 units of red cells and 72 units of plasma to Jamaica's National Blood Transfusion Service to help replenish supplies after Hurricane Melissa devastated the island.

The donation, organized by the Health Services Authority, (HSA), marks the first of several planned relief shipments. The effort follows an overwhelming public response, with 65 donors,

including 13 first timers, stepping forward after an urgent appeal.

"This extraordinary turnout demonstrates the generosity and solidarity of our community," said Dr. Lundie Richards, HSA Consultant Hematologist-Oncologist and lead for blood transfusion services. "As a Jamaican, I'm deeply moved. This is humanity at its best." The blood was flown to Kingston courtesy of Cayman Airways, with assistance from Jamaica's

Honorary Consul Dr. Joseph Marzouca. HSA CEO Lizzette Yearwood praised the effort as "a lifesaving initiative," noting that the donation could save up to 120 lives.

Health Minister Katherine Ebanks-Wilks commended donors, adding: "Our health systems are stronger when we support each other."

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Sandals Resorts Conducting Damage Assessments After Hurricane Melissa

Sandals Resorts International has begun a full-scale assessment of its eight Jamaican properties after Hurricane Melissa made landfall on October 28, marking one of the strongest storms ever to hit the island.

The company confirmed that all guests and team members are safe, adding that operations teams are evaluating structural and infrastructural damage across its seven Sandals Resorts and one Beaches Resort in Jamaica.

“The safety and well-being of our guests and team members remain our highest priority,” Sandals said in an official statement. “We are deeply grateful to our team members across Jamaica for their extraordinary commitment and care as they balanced responsibilities to guests while their own families and communities were affected by the storm.”

Sandals also announced it is prioritizing communication with guests whose reservations fall within the next two weeks, offering rescheduling and travel assistance as recovery efforts continue.

Hurricane Melissa made



Screen shot of the impact on Sandals south coast. (Facebook video)

landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 storm, the most powerful on record since weather tracking began more than 170 years ago, according to the Associated Press. Sandals said it will provide updates on reopening timelines once the assessments are complete, reaffirming its commitment to guest safety and community recovery as the island begins to rebuild from the unprecedented storm. Meanwhile, the Sandals Foundation - the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts

International - has officially activated its Relief Mission, with 100% of every dollar donated going directly toward emergency response and recovery efforts.

The foundation is working hand-in-hand with officials on the ground across Jamaica to help families and communities most affected by the storm. Donations will help provide food, clean water, shelter, and essential supplies to those in need.

“No donation is too small,” the foundation emphasized. “Every contribution makes a meaningful difference and helps families and communities recover.”

How To Donate

Supporters can contribute directly at www.sandalsfoundation.org:

- Click the “Donate” button (top right corner).
- Choose your currency and amount.
- From the drop-down menu, select “Relief Mission.”

All funds will go straight to relief, recovery, and rebuilding programs in Jamaica and across the Caribbean.



Airbnb.Org Offers Free Emergency Housing For Hurricane Melissa Responders And Displaced Residents

As recovery efforts continue across the Caribbean following Hurricane Melissa, Airbnb.org has announced a major initiative to provide free emergency housing for first responders and, when conditions allow, for displaced residents in affected areas - including Jamaica.

The non-profit arm of Airbnb, Airbnb.org, was created to connect people in crisis with emergency housing through the Airbnb platform. In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, the organization is partnering with All Hands & Hearts, Haiti Air Ambulance, and other nonprofits, along with local government agencies, to deploy immediate housing assistance where it's needed most.

“We’re working closely with Caribbean partners to identify first responders and residents in urgent need of safe, temporary housing,” Airbnb.org said in a statement. “Once it’s safe to do so, we’ll begin extending housing credits to impacted individuals.”

How The Program Works

Local nonprofits and government officials help identify and refer people in need of shelter. Airbnb.org then provides them with credits to book free temporary stays that suit their needs. Impacted



Houses and hotels were damaged particularly in the southwestern side of Jamaica. (Facebook image)

residents can check airbnb.org/hurricanemelissa for updated information on how to access assistance.

Since its founding in 2020, Airbnb.org has provided 1.6 million nights of free housing to over 250,000 people displaced by disasters, including wildfires in California, flooding in Texas, and the Japan earthquake earlier this year.

How to Help

Supporters can visit airbnb.org/hurricanemelissa to:

- Offer free or discounted stays as an Airbnb host (Airbnb does not profit from these stays).



Canada Warns Travelers To Exercise Caution If Travelling To Several Caribbean Nations Due To Crime

Canada is urging its citizens to exercise a high degree of caution when visiting several popular Caribbean tourist destinations – including the Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago – due to rising levels of violent and petty crime, according to updated Canada travel advisories issued this week.

The Canadian government’s travel advisories highlight an uptick in robberies, assaults, and fraud targeting tourists in resort areas, airports, and public spaces, while warning that local law enforcement response times are often slow or inconsistent.

Dominican Republic: High Crime And Petty Theft

The Dominican Republic, one of the Caribbean’s most visited nations, was flagged for both petty and violent crime. Officials warn that incidents occur at beaches, airports, hotels, and even inside private rooms or safes.

Tourists are frequently targeted by pickpockets, drive-by bag snatchers, and thieves on motorcycles who grab cellphones and handbags, the Canadian advisory stated. Travelers were also advised to avoid carrying valuables, keep car doors locked, and refrain from walking alone at night.

“Stay at hotels or resorts with good security,” the advisory states, adding that visitors should report all crimes before leaving the country if they expect investigations to proceed.

Sexual assault cases have also been reported, including incidents involving resort staff. Canada’s advisory cautions travelers to remain vigilant even within hotel grounds and to avoid accepting food or drinks from strangers.

Turks And Caicos Islands: Armed Robberies And Gang Violence

The Turks and Caicos Islands, known for luxury tourism and pristine beaches, is also under a “high degree of caution” advisory due to violent crime, including armed robberies and home invasions.

Canadian authorities say the majority of incidents occur on Providenciales, the territory’s most populated island. Tourists are urged to avoid deserted areas at night, keep valuables secure, and refrain from resisting attackers.

Police response times may be delayed, and reporting crimes can be complex, the advisory states. Canada also warns visitors to avoid using unmarked or illegal taxis known as “jitneys,” as several sexual assaults have involved such vehicles.

The Bahamas: Crime In Nassau And Freeport

The advisory for The Bahamas cites high rates of crime, particularly in Nassau and Freeport, even in daylight hours.

Petty theft, robberies, and sexual assaults have been reported near cruise ship terminals, hotels, casinos, and beaches and Canadian

officials noted that gang-related violence and a high murder rate persist on New Providence and Grand Bahama Islands, though most incidents occur outside main tourist zones.

Canadian travelers are encouraged to avoid isolated areas, stay in reputable resorts, and remain alert during holidays and festivals, when crime tends to spike.

Guyana: Rising Violent Crime And Fraud

Canada’s government warns that violent crime remains widespread in Guyana, including armed robberies, assaults, and carjackings. Criminals often operate in groups and target both tourists and returning Guyanese nationals.

High-risk areas, the government said, include Georgetown’s downtown districts and villages such as Buxton, Agricola, and Sophia. Tourists are urged to avoid showing signs of wealth, travel with caution after dark, and use official border crossings only, particularly near Venezuela where tensions persist.

Cybercrime and credit card fraud are also common, according to the advisory and visitors are advised to check bank statements regularly and use ATMs in secure locations.

Trinidad And Tobago: State Of Emergency And Violent Crime

The most severe warning was issued for Trinidad and Tobago, where a nationwide state of emergency declared in July 2025 remains in effect amid escalating gang violence and murders.

The Canadian advisory lists several areas of Port of Spain – including Laventille, Beetham Estate Gardens, and Sea Lots – as no-go zones, recommending travelers avoid non-essential travel there.

“Expect increased police and military presence,” the advisory warns, adding that authorities now have expanded powers to search, arrest, and detain without warrants.

Tourists are also cautioned about kidnappings, home invasions, sexual assaults, and online scams. Travelers using dating apps are urged to meet only in public areas and never bring new acquaintances to their accommodations.

Overall Regional Trend

The updated advisories underscore a growing concern among Western nations about Caribbean crime impacting tourism, a vital economic sector. While millions visit the region safely each year, Canada’s warnings echo recent U.S. and U.K. alerts advising vigilance, especially in nightlife areas and during local festivals.

Canadian citizens abroad are advised to register with the Government of Canada’s travel service, keep copies of key documents, and monitor updates on the Travel.gc.ca website.



FEATURE



Trailblazing Judge Melvia Green Honoured With Street Naming

BY DAVID L. SNELLING

Retired Judge Melvia Green recently returned to her old stomping grounds in Richmond Heights, Miami, where she was celebrated by family, friends, and members of the judiciary for her trailblazing role in breaking racial barriers within Florida's judicial system.

The street where she grew up now bears her name: Judge Melvia Green Terrace at Southwest 103 Avenue and 146 Terrace. Miami-Dade County officials unveiled the street sign in her honour during a ceremony to celebrate her achievements, marked by many firsts.

Green was the first Black female circuit court judge in Florida, and also the first African American female Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Florida. Her appointment to the Florida Third District Court of Appeal in 1994 made her the first African American woman to serve on the court.

Green was also among the first Black group of women to serve as senior litigation associates for the law firm of Morgan, Lewis and Bockius. In a legal career that spanned over 23 years, Green has undoubtedly left her mark.

She said her legal career was built on inspiration. "Little boys and girls who look like me don't inspire to become lawyers or judges for that matter," said the former judge. "When I became a judge, it was a dream come true.

I can't imagine doing anything else with my life. I knew that was my calling."

Green said people's lives are not counted by the number of breaths that "we take."

"But our lives are measured by those moments in our lives which take our breaths away," she said. "Today is truly such a moment for me. Thank you all." Green has racked up a host of accolades during her legal career. She was the 2003 Southern Women in Public Service recipient, the 1996 Nelson Mandela Award, which was presented by the Black Law Students Association of the University of Miami School of Law, the recipient of the 1990 Outstanding Government Role Model, presented by The Transplant Foundation of South Florida, and she was awarded the 1990 Outstanding Community Leader in the Judicial System, presented by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Beta Tau Zeta Chapter.

In addition, she was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America presented by the Distinguished Young Women Foundation.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kionne McGhee,



Judge Melvia Bailey-Green, 3rd from left, at the street renaming in her honor. A portion of SW 146th Terrace in Richmond Heights, Miami is now Judge Melvia Bailey-Green Terrace. (Contributed image)

who sponsored a resolution to rename the street after Green and a lawyer by trade, praised Green for contributions to the judicial system and community.

"From a young age, she was curious, kind, and devoted to helping her neighbours, traits that would guide her path to law and public service," said McGhee. "Through hard work in school, college, and law school, she built a career grounded in civil rights,

accountability, and unwavering integrity."

McGhee said as a judge, Green has mentored countless young lawyers, championed access to justice, and focused on due process and dignity for all in her courtroom.

"This street naming connects her roots to her remarkable work, proving that home becomes a national story when its people commit to justice.

Caribbean American Authors Set To Shine At 2025 Miami Book Fair To Share Stories Of Culture And Identity

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

out has included filmmaking, short stories and most recently children's literature.

'Mama's Nightingale,' was written to share the story of Haitian immigrants and family separation. The book combines Danticat's storytelling abilities and work by accomplished artist Leslie Staub.

The children's book tells "a touching tale of parent-child separation and immigration with stirring illustrations and shows how every child has the power to make a difference.

Daut will also take center stage at the Book Fair discussing her literary arts which reflects Haitian history and culture. The award-winning author, scholar and college professor's recent book, 'The First and Last King of Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Henry Christophe,' which was a finalist for the Cundill History Prize, explores the fascinating life of Haiti's only king while delving into the complex history of a 19th-century Caribbean monarchy.

Her other books include 'Tropics of Haiti: Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World,' 'Baron de Vastey and the Origins of Black Atlantic Humanism,' and 'Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution.' She is the co-winner of the Frederick



Also in attendance will be Jamaican born novelist and non-fiction writer, Olive Senior

Douglass Book Prize.

McCaulay, a lifelong resident of Kingston, Jamaica, will be on hand to discuss her new novel, 'A House For Miss Pauline,' which focuses on a 99 year-old Jamaican heroine that takes readers to the heart of rural Jamaica over disputes of land ownership and how some identities were forged.

Dr. Blanc, an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, will discuss her latest research on sleeping disorder disparities due to discrimination.

The Haitian-born Blanc's research tackles unique stress responses among marginalized families, women and children which offers several solutions including access to the right treatment.

It inspires local youth to dream big, study hard, and give back," he said.

Ronald Smith, founding pastor at Community Bible Baptist Church in Miami, said he and Green grew up together in the same neighbourhood.

Smith said he knew she would become a judge one day because she was determined to achieve her goal. "Congratulations to my fellow Richmond Heighter and my fellow band member at Miami Killian Sr. High School marching and concert bands," he said. "It's an honour well deserved."

In 2016, Green became one of a select few individuals who received the prestigious Legal Legend Award, an honour bestowed upon her by the HistoryMiami Museum and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

The annual award recognizes members of the legal community and community activists who have made substantial contributions to the law, legal system and administration of justice in South Florida for at least 25 years.



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"We found that in terms of association between socio-demographic characteristics and socio-economic factors associated with sleep, for example, non-Whites, meaning Blacks, Asian, Hispanic - compared to white, they reported less sleeping problem diagnosis," she said in her research. "And we also found that married individuals, those with no college education, those with lower income, non-US-born individuals, they reported lower sleeping diagnoses."

Senior, a Jamaican poet, novelist and non-fiction writer, was awarded the Musgrave Gold Medal in 20025 by the Institute of Jamaica for her contributions to literature. Born in Jamaica's Trelawny, Cockpit Country, Senior was the seventh of 10 children who attended Montego Bay High School for Girls.

She credits her literary success to her Jamaican upbringing and joining the staff of the Jamaica Gleaner in Kingston when she was 19. Other awards she has won include the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature and she was appointed Poet Laureate of Jamaica in 2021 and served the position until last year.

The complete Fair guide is available at miamibookfair.com



Atlanta Falcons Owner Arthur Blank Donates \$2.5 Million To Support Hurricane Relief

Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank is once again using his platform for good - this time to aid the Caribbean's recovery from Hurricane Melissa, one of the most destructive storms in recent history. Through the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, he has pledged \$2.5 million to support humanitarian relief and rebuilding efforts across the region.

Hurricane Melissa tore through Jamaica and the Caribbean on October 28th, making landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane with winds reaching 185 mph before moving on to Cuba as a Category 3 storm. The storm flattened homes, caused massive flooding, and left hundreds of thousands without power.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness declared the island a disaster zone as rescue teams worked tirelessly to reach cut-off communities. Recovery efforts across the region are expected to take years as infrastructure, housing, and basic services are restored.

Funding Hope And Relief

Blank's foundation has directed \$1.5 million to World Central Kitchen to deliver meals and clean water to families displaced by the storm and \$1



Damage in St. James, Jamaica, one of the epicentre's of tourism for the country. (JIS image/Garwin Davis)

million to Team Rubicon to help clear debris, rebuild homes, and provide emergency assistance.

"We're humbled to support Team Rubicon and World Central Kitchen with an initial grant to help address immediate needs in the community with disaster relief and nourishing meals," Blank said. He added that while full recovery will take time, he hopes the contribution brings strength and comfort to those affected.

A Legacy Of Compassion

Humanitarian groups have praised Blank's swift action

and ongoing commitment to communities beyond sports. His foundation has long supported disaster relief around the world, but this donation carries personal significance - the Caribbean holds a special place in his family's heart, making this tragedy especially resonant.

As rebuilding begins in Jamaica, Cuba, and neighbouring islands, Blank's gesture underscores the power of empathy and action - proving that leadership, both on and off the field, can help restore hope after even the fiercest storms.



FIFA, Guyana Partner To Build Mini Football Arenas In Hinterland Communities

President of Guyana Dr. Irfaan Ali and FIFA President Gianni Infantino have agreed to collaborate on the installation of mini football arenas across Guyana, with a special focus on hinterland and underserved communities.

The high-level discussions took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during the ninth edition of the Future Investment Initiative, (FII9), and also included His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Bin Faizal Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Sport.

The initiative aligns with the FIFA Arena Programme, a global project aimed at establishing 1,000 new mini pitches worldwide by 2031. The program focuses on creating safe and accessible spaces for children and young people in disadvantaged areas to play, learn, and build community through football.

Earlier this month, President Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to supporting the development of several mini pitches in Guyana next year as part of this partnership. Guyana Football Federation, (GFF), President Wayne Forde described the move as



His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Bin Faizal Al Saud (right), Saudi Arabia's Minister of Sport; FIFA President Gianni Infantino (left) and President of Guyana Dr. Irfaan Ali in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (CMC image)

a "transformational project," confirming that the first two all-weather mini pitches will be installed at Haslington, (East Demerara Football Association), and Retrieve (Upper Demerara Football Association in Linden).

The pitches, manufactured by Edel Grass BV of the Netherlands, have already been shipped and are expected to arrive in Guyana on December 3, 2025. Each pitch costs US\$98,000 (G\$21 million), and FIFA teams will oversee

installation, testing, and commissioning.

Once operational, the facilities will be managed by local regional associations under GFF guidelines - helping to ensure lasting community benefits and opportunities for youth development through sport.

- Rewritten from CMC



Usain Bolt Appeals For Global Support To Aid Jamaica's Recovery After Hurricane Melissa

Jamaica's triple Olympic sprint legend, Usain Bolt, has made an emotional plea to fans worldwide to donate toward recovery efforts in Jamaica following the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa.

The powerful Category 5 storm made landfall near New Hope on October 28, 2025, packing winds of up to 300 km/h (185 mph). The hurricane caused catastrophic damage - toppling homes, downing power lines, and crippling communication networks - before moving north toward Cuba. Officials say a full assessment of the damage will take several days.

Meteorologists described Melissa's formation as an "extreme rapid intensification," with wind speeds doubling from 70 mph to 140 mph in just 24 hours before slamming into the island.

As emergency crews continue rescue and relief operations, Bolt took to social media, sharing an image of folded hands over storm-ravaged

landscapes with a message urging fans to contribute to official relief funds.

"Jamaica needs us right now," Bolt wrote. "Let's come together to help rebuild homes, communities, and hope."

His message follows a similar appeal from fellow Olympian Elaine Thompson-Herah, who earlier urged Jamaicans to stay vigilant and prioritize safety as the storm approached.

American athletes Noah Lyles, Christian Coleman, Vernon Norwood, and Sha'Carri Richardson also extended words of solidarity and support to Jamaica, underscoring the global sports community's unity in the face of tragedy.

As the island begins the long road to recovery, Bolt's rallying call reminds the world that even in disaster, Jamaica's spirit of resilience and unity shines strongest when supported by its global family.



Jamaica Premier League Season Suspended Indefinitely After Hurricane Melissa Devastation

Following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Melissa, officials have confirmed that the Jamaica Premier League, (JPL) will remain suspended indefinitely as the island begins its long recovery from the Category 5 storm.

Chief Executive Officer of Professional Football Jamaica Limited, (PFJL), Owen Hill, said on Friday that it will take time before football can safely resume, as several clubs have suffered significant infrastructural damage.

"It is too early to have a definite plan to restart," Hill said. "That will require

a collective stakeholder engagement process, which will take a couple of days. We had an emergency meeting this morning just to gather ourselves and get updates from the clubs. It is devastating."

Hurricane Melissa battered Jamaica on October 28th, leaving what officials estimate to be billions of dollars in damage across the island. Teams located in the southern and western parishes, including Treasure Beach FC and Montego Bay United, were among the hardest hit.

"When you look at Treasure Beach and Montego Bay United, those teams have experienced

serious challenges with their infrastructure," Hill said. "Right now, we're concerned about the mental well-being of the players as much as the physical damage."

While the physical toll is severe, Hill said he was relieved to report no loss of life or major injuries within the football community. "Luckily for us, we've had no major injuries when it comes to life, but livelihood and property are definitely part of the rebuilding," he said. "We can't give a restart date yet, but I can say the teams are already trying to pick up the pieces."

At the time of the season's suspension - nine matches in - Montego Bay United led the standings with 22 points, followed by Portmore United (18 points), Racing United (15 points), and defending champions Cavalier (13 points).

The PFJL said it will continue to work with local and regional football bodies to assess damages and determine the best path forward once safety and infrastructure are restored.

- Rewritten from CMC



SPORTS NEWS



Caribbean Roots Baseball Star Inks Jaw-Dropping Contract

Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. wants the world to know he was born ready. The Canadian-born, Dominican Republic-raised slugger - now the face of Toronto baseball - just inked a jaw-dropping \$500 million contract, the third largest in Major League Baseball history.

But for Guerrero Jr., the money isn't the milestone - the mission is. "My goal is to win a World Series and give the ring to my dad," he said, referring to Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero, Sr., who spent much of his career with the Montreal Expos but never captured the title.

Now, three decades since Toronto last lifted the championship trophy, the younger Guerrero is leading the Blue Jays back to the World Series, facing off against Shohei Ohtani and the Los Angeles Dodgers in a storybook showdown that pits baseball's brightest talents - and biggest contracts - against each other.

From Caribbean Roots To Canadian Greatness Born in Montreal but raised in Don Gregorio, Dominican Republic, Guerrero Jr. embodies the bridge between Caribbean passion and North American precision. He grew

up surrounded by the rhythm of baseball - practicing with his father before he could write his name - and by 16, was already signed by the Blue Jays organization.

Two decades later, that investment has paid off spectacularly. Guerrero has powered Toronto's postseason run and was named Most Valuable Player in the American League Division Series, cementing his place as one of the most electrifying players in modern baseball.

His story is more than athletic excellence; it's a cultural and generational triumph. For Caribbean fans from Santo Domingo to Kingston, Guerrero's rise is a testament to what regional talent can achieve when given a global stage.

A \$500 Million Bet On Belief

Guerrero's 14-year contract with Toronto made headlines not just for its magnitude but for what it symbolized: faith in a Caribbean-born superstar to carry an entire franchise - and perhaps an entire nation's baseball hopes - on his shoulders.

"I feel fortunate to carry my dad's legacy and represent an entire country," Guerrero said at the time of signing. His commitment stands in contrast



Toronto Blue Jays first base Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (27) during game against the Philadelphia Phillies at Citizens Bank Park. (Eric Hartline-Imagn Images/File Photo)

to the pattern of superstar free agents leaving Toronto for bigger U.S. markets.

A Symbol Of Unity For A Divided Sport

Guerrero's charisma transcends baseball. Off the field, he lives quietly with his grandmother, often credits her Dominican cooking for his

training stamina, and has made strides to connect more deeply with Canadian fans - even conducting more interviews in English and donning a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey.

In a city where hockey reigns supreme, Guerrero's rise has galvanized a rare cross-sport, cross-cultural unity. When the Blue Jays clinched their World

Series berth, Toronto erupted - fans flooded downtown streets waving Canadian and Dominican flags side by side. Similar celebrations broke out across Canada and the Caribbean, echoing through Santo Domingo.

A Story Beyond Baseball

In Guerrero's hometown of Don Gregorio, crowds gathered around televisions, cheering as one of their own - the son of a legend - stood on the brink of rewriting baseball history. For them, Guerrero's journey mirrors that of the Caribbean diaspora itself: perseverance, pride, and generational promise fulfilled.

Guerrero Jr. knows it, too. He's playing for his family, for his country, and for every Caribbean kid who's ever swung a bat and dared to dream. And in true Guerrero fashion, he's still smiling. "I was born ready," he repeats - and this time, the whole baseball world believes him.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



Reggae Girlz Crush Trinidad & Tobago 4-1 In Dominant Friendly Win

Jamaica's Reggae Girlz delivered a commanding 4-1 victory over Trinidad & Tobago's Women's team in an international friendly earlier this week, powered by a brilliant brace from Jodi Brown. The Jamaicans asserted control early, taking the lead just four minutes in when Olufolasade Adamolekun set up Brown, who blasted past T&T's goalkeeper Nicolette Craig.

T&T equalized in the 13th minute through Nikita Gosine, who curled a stunning left-footed shot into the top corner to make it 1-1.

After the break, Jamaica's dominance intensified. Natasha Thomas restored the lead in the 52nd minute, Tiana Harris extended it with a 67th-minute header, and Brown sealed



Reggae Girlz

the win in the 87th minute, capitalizing on a loose ball in the box.

The result underlined Jamaica's attacking strength

and depth as they continue preparations for upcoming regional fixtures.





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Reds Perreira Urges CWI To Name Desmond Haynes As Batting Coach



West Indies legendary batting star, Desmond Haynes.

Veteran cricket commentator Joseph “Reds” Perreira has called on Cricket West Indies, (CWI), to replace current batting coach Floyd Reifer, citing the team’s continued batting struggles across all formats.

Perreira believes West Indies legend Desmond Haynes should take over the role ahead of next month’s tour of New

Zealand, where the regional side is set to play five T20 Internationals, three One-Day Internationals, and three Tests.

“Our batting has struggled since the Australia series, and it’s time to make a change,” Perreira told the St. Lucia Times. “Desmond Haynes has a great track record, particularly in New Zealand, and his experience and

mentorship would be invaluable to our players.”

Haynes, who formed a legendary opening partnership with Gordon Greenidge during the 1980s and 1990s, scored 7,487 runs in 116 Tests at an average of 42.29. Since retiring, he has served as West Indies’ lead selector, head coach of the Barbados Tridents, and currently sits on the ICC Men’s Cricket Committee.

Perreira added that Reifer has “had his run” and failed to deliver results, suggesting that CWI “bite the bullet” and make the switch.

He also proposed that former New Zealand all-rounder James Franklin join the coaching staff, saying his expertise could help improve the team’s “fielding and catching, which have been at a very low level.”

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Hosting FIBA Qualifiers Marks New Era For Jamaica Basketball, Says Coach Turner



Jamaica’s basketball team will play two games at home next year in the FIBA Basketball World Cup Americas Qualifiers.

Head coach of Jamaica’s men’s basketball team, Rick Turner, believes hosting next year’s FIBA Basketball World Cup Americas Qualifiers will be a game-changer for the sport’s growth and visibility across the island.

For the first time in the nation’s history, the JamRockerz will compete in the World Cup Qualifiers, drawn in Pool B alongside Canada, Puerto Rico, and The Bahamas. Jamaica will tip off its campaign with back-to-back away games against Puerto Rico on November 28th and December 1st, before returning home for two crucial matches at Kingston’s National Arena - facing The Bahamas on February 26th and Canada on March 1st. “Jamaica deserves this,” Turner said. “Playing meaningful

games in front of our home fans is a dream come true. It’s a huge opportunity to reignite excitement for basketball and showcase our talent on home soil.”

He added that hosting such a prestigious event could be the spark Jamaica needs to establish itself as a consistent regional contender.

“The team was dormant since 2013, so we’ve got a lot of ground to make up,” Turner noted. “But this can be the beginning of a renaissance for Jamaica basketball - something that lasts for generations.”

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board Sues Former Employee Over Missing Cash

The Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board, (TTCB), has filed legal action against former account executive Alicia David-Jones over nearly TT\$500,000 in missing funds.

Guardian Media Sport confirmed the lawsuit through a response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the Judiciary, dated August 12. The action follows a June pledge by TTCB attorneys Henry Chase and Navinda Ramnanan to initiate civil proceedings to

recover the unaccounted money.

An internal audit conducted by former TTCB treasurer and forensic accountant Kiswah Chaitoo first revealed the discrepancies in November 2023. His report showed that as of July 31, 2023, more than \$132,000 in board funds -allocated for administration, cleaning, match fees, training, travel, and general expenses - could not be verified. Further investigations later uncovered that the missing sum exceeded \$500,000.

David-Jones later resigned, submitting a letter admitting to taking a portion of the funds. In addition to the civil case, the matter remains under active police investigation.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



Trinidad Paralympian Akeem Stewart Says He Gets No Government Funding

Trinidad and Tobago’s decorated Paralympian Akeem Stewart has revealed that despite his world-class achievements, he receives no financial support from the government and only a fraction of the rewards given to able-bodied athletes.

Speaking on iSports on 195.5 FM, Stewart, who won the country’s first-ever Paralympic gold medal in 2016, said he has not received funding since last year despite submitting all required documents.

“We submitted the paperwork last September and from then to now, nothing. I’ve never received elite or advance funding. The only help I ever got was during COVID-19,” he said.

The 33-year-old, who recently captured silver in the F44 discus at the World Para Athletics Championships in India, said he also earns significantly less for medal performances.

While Olympic medalists like Keshorn Walcott received TT\$500,000 for gold and Jerem Richards TT\$250,000 for silver, Stewart said his silver medal payout was just TT\$75,000.

“It feels like I’m valued at 30 percent of a human being - and that hurts,” he said, calling the treatment of Paralympians “disrespectful and discriminatory.”

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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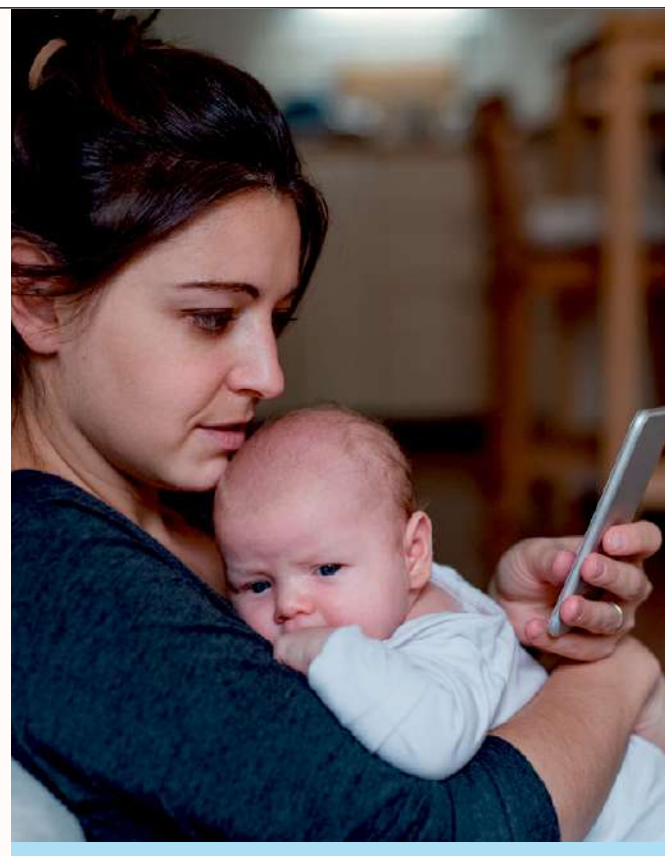
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