

Belize National Teachers' Union



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PRESS RELEASE

The Council of Management and general membership of the Belize National Teachers' Union (BNTU) wish to express, through this medium, our deepest sorrow and condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and loved ones of Mrs. Josephine Augustine as well as our hope and prayers for the complete and speedy recovery of her dear husband Mr. Dudley Augustine. The Augustines have served our country well, both as career Public Officers and Teachers. Their exemplary service and dedication have impacted many and the memory of Mrs. Josephine Augustine will remain with us for many years to come.

The BNTU and teachers countrywide condemn, in the strongest terms, the brutal home invasion and attack that led to the senseless murder of Sister Josephine. Our teachers and other citizens at large continue to be cheated out of their right to a peaceful existence by rogue elements of the society who have no respect for life and property. We call on the political directorate to act swiftly and precisely to target the sharp increase in violent crimes that now plagues our country.

We join in solidarity with other concerned organizations and citizens who are now demanding action from our Government. It is time to take a look at the root causes of these crimes, and along with other social partners, formulate an adequate plan of action to combat this growing issue that is adversely affecting our nation. The prevailing socio-economic conditions of high and increasing poverty, unemployment and breakdown in the family structure must be properly analyzed and addressed, along with those of the gang culture, abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs.

Our people are now constantly crying out for resolution and therefore the perpetrators of these heinous crimes must be found and brought to justice. Our Police Department including the prosecution, investigation and forensic branches and other law enforcement agencies must immediately be strengthened so as to carry out their duties more effectively.

Failure to address the seriousness of our current situation will soon lead to total anarchy and collapse of our economy and society as a whole. BNTU stands ready to support any such serious national initiative.

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Motto: Service, Security, Success