



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

May 01, 2023

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY RECEIVES THE CARIBBEAN FIREARMS STUDY 2023

Port of Spain: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., was formally presented with a copy of *The Caribbean Firearms Study 2023* by the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Small Arms Survey (SAS) at the Official Launch Ceremony of their joint publication on Wednesday April 26, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain. The event formed part of the Fourth Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) Technical Working Group Meeting which was held from April 25-27, 2023.

Delivering the Keynote Address at the launch ceremony, Minister Hinds expressed his gratitude to CARICOM IMPACS and the Small Arms Survey for working assiduously over the last two years to produce the publication and also took the opportunity to thank the Federal Republic of Germany for funding the study.

The Minister stated, *"I am more than pleased to have received this report and I can say unreservedly that it was comprehensively executed. I am confident that it will serve as a most timely contribution to our ever-expanding understanding of the factors that contribute to the prevalence of firearms proliferation and usage, for nefarious purposes, within our nation's and the region's borders, and the transshipment of these weapons and ammunition, both in, and through our borders."*

The publication, entitled *The Weapons Compass: The Caribbean Firearms Study*, provides an analysis of the scope and scale of firearms holdings in the region, illicit arms and ammunition flows, medical costs of firearms violence and emerging firearms issues. The study, which draws on data and information collected from 22 Caribbean states, also offers recommendations to inform discussions and help guide national and regional firearms policy.

Minister Hinds noted that, *"Reducing illegal firearms flows is everyone's business and as such we would be wise to maintain an open and reciprocal flow of*

information amongst all relevant agencies. In this way, the challenges that our operational authorities contend with, and peripherally the factors surrounding their entry, and proliferation, such as those which this Study explored, should remain at the forefront of all our decision-making efforts.”

The Minister reiterated the commitment of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to ensuring the safety and security of this country and the region, as a whole, by boosting efforts to significantly reduce the criminal impact of guns.

Also in attendance at the event were Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox; Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Senator the Honourable Renuka Sagramsingh-Sooklal; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Ute König; Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Shante Moore; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Director, Small Arms Survey, Mr. Daniel de Torres; and Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Photo 1: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. delivered the Keynote Address during the Launch of the Caribbean Firearms Study 2023 on Wednesday April 26, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.



Photo 2: Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. received a copy of The Caribbean Firearms Study 2023 on Wednesday April 26, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain. *(From left to right):* Director, Small Arms Survey, Mr. Daniel de Torres; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Ute König.

END