



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

April 27, 2023

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

BOLSTERING EVIDENCE STORAGE CAPACITY AT THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTRE

Port of Spain: The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC) has received, for the purpose of evidence storage, a new forty (40) foot container furnished with secured fabricated cages and shelves, barcode scanners and a laptop computer.

At a Handover Ceremony held at the TTFSC in Federation Park, Port of Spain, on Monday April 24, 2023, the evidence storage container was commissioned by Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., in collaboration with the High Commissioner of Canada to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Arif Keshani and Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Ms. Soledad Urruela.

Speaking at the event, Minister Hinds thanked UNLIREC for facilitating the donation of the forty (40) foot container. He also extended gratitude to His Excellency Keshani for the funding provided by the Government of Canada to construct the special purpose container facility. The Minister emphasized his commitment to ongoing projects with both international partners and welcomed future collaboration, with a view to increasing safety for all in Trinidad and Tobago.

High Commissioner Keshani and Director of UNLIREC, Ms. Soledad Urruela, also delivered remarks at the event. They both acknowledged the longstanding bilateral relationship with Trinidad and Tobago; the successes of ongoing initiatives; and committed to continued support for the strengthening of national security projects.

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was also signed between Minister Hinds and UNLIREC Director Ms. Urruela, to formalize the handover of the container for use by the TTFSC for the storage of evidence.

Also in attendance at the Handover Ceremony were Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Denise Phillip; Director (Ag.) of the TTFSC, Mr. Derrick Sankar, who delivered welcome remarks; Deputy Director (Ag.)

of the TTFSC, Ms. Michelle Nasseir; Senior Policy Advisor at UNLIREC, Mr. Jason Francis; Project Manager, Ministry of National Security, Mr. Mark Lutchman; and Deputy Director of the International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch.

Prior to the Handover Ceremony, the Minister hosted a courtesy call with UNLIREC Director Ms. Urruela, who is visiting this country. Discussions reinforced the longstanding bilateral relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and UNLIREC, and focused on deepening engagements as well as expanding joint initiatives, including capacity building for law enforcement and national security officers, in the area of firearm and ballistics analysis.

Photos and captions:



1. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. hosted a courtesy call with the Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Ms. Soledad Urruela, on Monday April 24, 2023 at the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC) in Federation Park, Port of Spain. Ms. Urruela is visiting Trinidad and Tobago for the Handover Ceremony for a new forty (40) foot container to the TTFSC for the purpose of evidence storage.



2. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. and Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Ms. Soledad Urruela, sign a Letter of Agreement (LoA) to formalize the handover of a new forty foot container for use by the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC) for the storage of evidence. The Handover Ceremony took place on Monday April 24, 2023 at the TTFSC in Federation Park, Port of Spain.



3. Officials at the Handover of a new forty foot container donated by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and the Government of Canada, for use by the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC) for the storage of evidence. *From left to right:* Senior Policy Advisor at UNLIREC, Mr. Jason Francis; Director of UNLIREC, Ms. Soledad Urruela; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; High Commissioner of Canada to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Arif Keshani; Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Denise Phillip; and Director (Ag.) of the TTFSC, Mr. Derrick Sankar.



4. *From left to right:* Senior Policy Advisor at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Mr. Jason Francis; High Commissioner of Canada to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Arif Keshani; Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Director of UNLIREC, Ms. Soledad Urruela; and Director (Ag.) of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC), Mr. Derrick Sankar stand outside a new forty (40) foot container donated by UNLIREC and the Government of Canada, for use by the TTFSC for the storage of evidence.

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