



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

November 19, 2024

For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY DELIVERS REMARKS AT UNLIREC COURSE FOR COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Port of Spain:** On Tuesday November 19, 2024, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP, delivered an address at the opening ceremony for a course entitled: "Combatting Trafficking in Arms and Ammunition in the Caribbean."

The three-day course is being hosted by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and is being funded through the support of the United States of America and is being held at the Police Training Academy, St. James.

It is part of the technical assistance offered to Trinidad and Tobago as a participant country in the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap programme, and is intended to strengthen coordination, communication and cooperation between different sectors and actors with responsibilities for illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

Representatives from various national ministries and agencies participated in the course.

Since 2011, UNLIREC has been engaging with various agencies and institutions in Trinidad and Tobago to implement a number of activities, via trainings, donations and technical support, to build capacities nationally.

To this end, the Minister expressed appreciation for the support of UNLIREC in countering the diversion of firearms and ammunition throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region. He also affirmed the commitment of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to mitigating against the challenges associated with transnational organized crime, through increased regional cooperation and the facilitation of capacity building initiatives such as this course.

On the subject of combatting arms and ammunition, the Minister stated that, *"the issue of arms and ammunition trafficking, is a complex and pervasive threat, one that not only merely undermines our regional security, but more specifically, fuels violence, instability, general criminal activity and numbing and immobilizing fear. From gang violence to illicit trafficking networks, the illegal movement of weapons across borders, poses an increasing challenge to law enforcement, policymakers, and communities alike."*

*He further stated, "Since 2022, Trinidad and Tobago have maintained fierce resistance to this threat, as we are participants in the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap programme. The ultimate goal of this Roadmap is a safer Caribbean, which can be significantly achieved by addressing the issue of illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition. Accordingly, this three-day training course, represents an intrinsic part of a coordinated technical assistance package, designed for Trinidad and Tobago, to tackle precisely this issue, as we make strides, towards the implementation of our National Action Plan, in furtherance of the very ambitious aim of achieving, all four goals of the Roadmap."*

Also present to deliver welcome remarks were Mr Scott Hansen, Political-Economic Counselor, Embassy of the USA in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Quinnelle-Marie Kangalee, and Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher, Commissioner of Police, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

## PHOTO AND CAPTION



Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds MP (Third from Right) with course participants and tutors, at the opening ceremony for the course on Combatting Trafficking in Arms and Ammunition in the Caribbean, at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Training Academy, Port of Spain.

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