



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**  
Ministry of Homeland Security

November 11, 2025

For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CTU ARRESTS FOUR SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKERS IN OPERATION** **IRONHEART**

The **Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU)** of the **Ministry of Homeland Security** has arrested four (4) suspects following a coordinated pre-dawn operation in the **Penal-Debe** area earlier today. The exercise, code-named **Operation Ironheart**, began at **5:00 a.m.** and targeted multiple locations connected to a suspected human trafficking network.

The intelligence-led operation was conducted in close collaboration with the **Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force**, including the **Defence Force Intelligence Unit (DFIU)**, **Special Forces Operations Detachment (SFOD)**. Key support was provided by the **Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS)** through the **Financial Investigations Branch (FIB)**, **Special Investigations Unit / Special Investigations Task Force (SIU/SITF)**, **Southern Division Task Force**, **South Western Division Task Force**, and **Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Officers**. Further assistance was also provided by the **Immigration Division** of the **Ministry of Homeland Security**.

The coordinated effort focused on suspects believed to be involved in the **Trafficking of a 14-year-old Latin American female victim**. The victim has been safely rescued previously and is now under the protection and care of the **Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago**.

The operation resulted in the **arrest of four (4) individuals – 2 Trinidadian and 2 Venezuelan male nationals linked to the crime of human trafficking** as well as **three (3) Venezuelan nationals detained due to immigration violations**.

Today's operation is the continuation of activities which began yesterday with the **arrest of David Daniel Barnes** on **November 10, 2025**, by the CTU and the **Defence Force Intelligence Unit (DFIU)** in connection with an illegal firearm recovered during **Operation G-Ride** earlier this year. That firearm was linked to a major human trafficking ring dismantled in **Tunapuna** in June 2025.

Barnes currently faces several charges including the **unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition** and today was granted \$20,000 surety bail while he awaits trial. The bail was granted by a Master of the High Court.

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Both **Operation Ironheart** and **Operation G-Ride** form part of the CTU's wider national strategy to disrupt organized trafficking networks and bring perpetrators to justice.

The Ministry of Homeland Security commended the dedication and professionalism of all officers and partner agencies involved in these coordinated efforts. The Minister of Homeland Security, the Honourable Mr. Roger Alexander stated:

*"This success demonstrates what is possible when our agencies work together with focus and resolve. The Ministry remains steadfast in its mission to dismantle these criminal networks and ensure that Trinidad and Tobago is never a haven for human trafficking."*

The **CTU** continues to lead the national fight against human trafficking, protecting victims, pursuing offenders, and strengthening prevention measures across Trinidad and Tobago.

The public is reminded that human trafficking is a serious crime. If you suspect someone may be a victim, please contact the **CTU Hotline at 800-4CTU (4288)**. All calls are confidential.

**For additional information please email the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) at:**  
[countertraffickingunit@mns.gov.tt](mailto:countertraffickingunit@mns.gov.tt)

For more updates, follow the CTU on social media: **@countertraffickingunit\_tt**



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## **PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS**



Photo 1: Suspect being led into custody by various officers in the operation.



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Photo 2: Suspect being led into custody by various officers in the operation.



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Photo 3: Suspect being led into custody by various officers in the operation.