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**NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYNA
FIRST SESSION (2006-2008)
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

RESOLUTION NO. 54

WHEREAS President Bharrat Jagdeo met on February 19 and 20 with a broad cross-section of representatives from the religious community, business sector, the labour movement, women, Amerindian, and other civil society bodies to discuss the recent escalation of crime, and from that engagement a joint statement was issued which called for:

- “1. Commit their full and unqualified support of the joint services in confronting crime in our country and in securing the safety of our citizens under the law, and;
2. Work in collaboration with the Government and all of the parliamentary political parties to jointly review the national security plan for its urgent and comprehensive implementation with the ultimate goal of cementing inclusive democracy, peace and justice in our country;
3. Initiate and support confidence building measures in the society at large and amongst communities and organizations, in order to continue to move the country forward;
4. Call on all political parties to seek in good faith a unified position on law and order and public safety.” (A copy attached at Appendix A);

AND WHEREAS President Jagdeo also met on February 19 with the leaders of the five parliamentary political parties to discuss the current crime situation, and following that meeting a joint statement was issued calling for:

- “1. Unequivocally condemn crime in all its forms especially the recent Lusignan and Bartica massacres;
2. Commit to work together in support of the Joint Services as they fight crime professionally and within the confines of the law;
3. Agree to work with major stakeholders in reviewing the national security plan and in accelerating its implementation;
4. Agree to approach the media in a more responsible manner and so promote greater social cohesion;
5. Support efforts by the administration in garnering assistance in the fight against crime from the international community;
6. And we call on the international community to respond positively and urgently to the requests for further assistance.” (A copy attached as Appendix B);

AND WHEREAS President Jagdeo and the national stakeholders including the leaders of the five parliamentary political parties met again on February 27 to review, as agreed, the security sector plan and its implementation;

3.

AND WHEREAS at that meeting reports were presented by government officials active in the security sector and stakeholders made recommendations about the security sector, the plan, its implementation and matters related to security; and, at its conclusion, a joint statement was issued which agreed:

- “1. To support the national security sector plan and its various components;
2. To tabulate all the recommendations which were presented for consideration and agreed that another meeting would be held in two weeks time to examine these recommendations.” (A copy attached as Appendix C);

AND WHEREAS the President met again with the national stakeholders on March 12 to examine those recommendations made and the meeting agreed to the following as outlined in the joint statement:

- “1. Establish as a matter of urgency a new Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Security with Ministerial representation;
2. Expedite the appointment of the six Constitutional Commissions (Ethnic, Women, Children, Indigenous, Human Rights and the Public Procurement Commission) which are key features of the governance framework within 90 days;
3. Convene and activate the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Committee to address issues presently before it and to examine further areas for constitutional reform;

4.

- 4. Ensure the meaningful and effective participation of civil society in these parliamentary processes;
- 5. Explore an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum." (A copy attached as Appendix D);

RESOLVED,

That the National Assembly takes note of those engagements and accepts the output as reflecting national consensus on the agreed upon actions;

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That this National Assembly in accepting that national consensus was arrived at during those meetings with the President and the Stakeholders undertakes to provide its fullest support and to assign its highest priority in implementing those commitments that called for action by Parliamentary bodies.

Passed by the National Assembly on Thursday, 27th March, 2008.

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 S.E. ISAACS
 Clerk of the National Assembly

**CLERK OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In response to recent attacks on innocent civilians and the Joint Services which have undermined public safety, the representatives of Civil Society meeting in caucus with His Excellency, President Bharrat Jagdeo, on Tuesday February 19th and Wednesday February 20th, 2008 at the Office of the President agreed and pledged themselves to:

1. Commit their full and unqualified support of the Joint Services in confronting crime in our country and in securing the safety of our citizens under the law, and
2. Work in collaboration with the Government and all of the parliamentary political parties to jointly review the national security plan for its urgent and comprehensive implementation with the ultimate goal of cementing inclusive democracy, peace and justice in our country.
3. Initiate and support confidence building measures in the society at large, and amongst communities and organizations, in order to continue to move the country forward.
4. Call on all political parties to seek in good faith a unified position on law and order and public safety.

In conclusion, we are reminded at this time that February 23rd is the 38th Anniversary of our Republic. We therefore urge all Political Parties, in and out of Parliament, and, citizens, organized or not, to recommit to the principles of justice and peace in our society.

Feb 20. 2008

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APPENDIX B

On this February 19, 2008, We the following parliamentary political parties PPP/C, PNCR/IG, TUF, AFC and GAP/ROAR met with His Excellency the President at Office of the President, and came to the following agreement:

Mindful of the recent attacks on innocent civilians and the Joint Services which have undermined public safety, and recognizing that there is need to further examine what may be the contributing factors to this recent escalation;

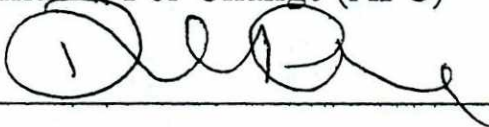
We, the political parties, desirous of collectively expressing our profound concern of these developments, individually and collectively:

1. Unequivocally condemn crime in all its forms especially the recent Lusignan and Bartica massacres.
2. Commit to work together in support of the Joint Services as they fight crime professionally and within the confines of the law.
3. Agree to work with major stakeholders in reviewing the national security plan and in accelerating its implementation.
4. Agree to approach the media in a more responsible manner and so promote greater social cohesion.
5. Support efforts by the administration in garnering assistance in the fight against crime from the international community.
6. And we call on the international community to respond positively and urgently to the requests for further assistance.

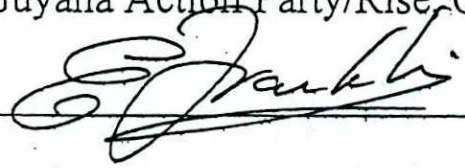
Government of Guyana:



Alliance For Change (AFC)

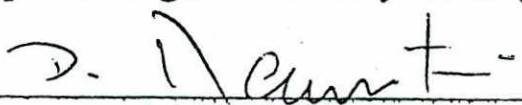


Guyana Action Party/Rise, Organise and Rebuild (GAP/ROAR)



People's National Congress Reform One Guyana (PNC/ROG)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)



The United Force (TUF)



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The national stakeholders representing the Government and the five parliamentary parties and a broad-cross section of civil society met on February 27th at the Office of the President to discuss the national security plan and to bring their considered views to address the serious escalation of crime.

The national stakeholders held a cordial and constructive meeting at which it was agreed

- (i) to support the national security sector plan and its various components.
- (ii) to tabulate all the recommendations which were presented for consideration and agreed that another meeting would be held in two weeks time to examine these recommendations.

The Government delegation was led by His Excellency the President.

The following Organisations were represented at the meeting:

People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)

People's National Congress (PNC/RIG)

Alliance for Change (AFC)

Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise And Rebuild

The United Force TUF

Private Sector Commission

Private Sector Corporate Members

Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce (ARCC)

Aircraft Owners Association

Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Association

Gold and Diamond Miners Association

Forest Products Association

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Inter Religious Organisation

Guyana Council of Churches

Guyana Evangelical Fellowship

Georgetown Ministers Fellowship

Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Baha'i Faith

Buxton Ministers Fellowship

Independent Pentecostal Churches

Gandhi Youth Organisation

Guyana Maha Kali All Religious Organisation

Guyana Central Arya Samaj

Cornelia Ida Hindu Temple

Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sahba

Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana

Guyana Islamic Trust

Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation

Muslim Youth League

Ahmadiyya Ishati Islam

Guyana Trade Unions Congress

Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana

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Red Thread

Rural Womens Network

Mothers in Black (Alicea Foundation)

Women's Affairs Bureau

GUYWID

National Commission on Women

TAAMOG

Guyana Human Rights Association

Guyana Bar Association

Guyana Association of Women Lawyers

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

Citizen's Initiative

Indian Arrival Committee

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APPENDIX D

PRESS RELEASE

The National Stakeholders held their follow-up meeting as agreed at the Office of the President on March 12, 2008. The meeting considered a matrix of recommendations which were made at the February 27, 2008 consultation.

The meeting reiterated its support for the Joint Services' efforts to address the recent escalation of crime, and, agreed that the rule of law and the constitutional rights of all citizens be respected.

The National Stakeholders comprising representatives of the Government of Guyana, Members of the Joint Services, the Parliamentary Political Parties, the Private Sector, Labour, the Legal Profession, Women, Amerindian organizations, Citizens Initiative, GHRA, IRO, Christian, Hindu, Muslim bodies and IAC, agreed to the following:

- (1) Establish as a matter of urgency a new Parliamentary Standing Sectoral Committee on National Security with Ministerial representation;
- (2) Expedite the appointment of the six (6) Constitutional Commissions which are key features of the governance framework within 90 days;
- (3) Convene and activate the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Committee to address issues presently before it and to examine further areas for constitutional reform;
- (4) Ensure the meaningful and effective participation of civil society in these parliamentary processes;
- (5) Explore an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum.

March 12, 2008

The following organizations were represented and agreed to the above Press Release

Government of Guyana
People's Progressive Party/Civic
People's National Congress/Reform
The United Force
Alliance For Change
Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild
Guyana Council of Churches
Buxton Ministers' Fellowship
The Seventh Day Adventist
The Inter Religious Organisation
Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation
Central Islamic Organisation
Guyana Islamic Trust
Muslim Youth League of Guyana
Guyana Central Arya Samaj
Guyana Maha Kali All Religious Organisation
Guyana Maha Kali Madrasi
Guyana Dharmic Sabha
Guyana Trades Union Congress
Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana
Private Sector Commission
Private Sector Corporate Members
Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce (ARCC)
Aircraft Owners Association
Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Small Business Association
Gold and Diamond Miners Association
Forest Products Association
Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Red Thread

Rural Women's Network

Mothers in Black

Women's Affairs Bureau

Guyana Women in Development (GUYWID)

Women's Progressive Organization

TAAMOG

Guyana Bar Association

Citizen's Initiative

Indian Arrival Committee

Guyana Human Rights Association