



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Police Administration Building,
Corner Edward and Sackville Streets, Port of Spain
Telephone: 1 (868) 625-8395 **Facsimile:** 1 (868) 625-7133
Email: corporatecommunications@ttps.gov.tt

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MEDIA RELEASE

Venezuelan Pair Face High Court Master on Firearm, Assault and Robbery Charges

Two Venezuelan nationals appeared before a High Court Master on 18th August, 2025, charged with multiple offences arising from the attempted armed robbery and assault of a forklift operator/taxi driver and his passenger.

Paul Eduardo Valero Padron, 29, and **Anthony Jesus Jiminez Hernandez, 21,** both of Tucupita, Venezuela, appeared before Master Kateisha Ambrose-Persadsingh at the High Court, South. They were charged with two counts of assault with intent to rob, wounding with intent, possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, possession of a firearm to endanger life, and possession of ammunition to endanger life.

The men were not called upon to plead. Bail was denied, pending confirmation of their criminal records from Interpol.

The charges stem from an incident reported on 13th August, 2025. According to police reports, the victim, a 55-year-old forklift operator/taxi driver, was transporting a 33-year-old male passenger along Clarke Road, Penal, when he picked up two additional passengers — later identified as Padron and Hernandez.

Upon reaching the vicinity of the Heritage compound, the driver reported feeling a metal object pressed against the back of his head and was instructed to “relax.” He stopped the vehicle and attempted to flee but was intercepted by one of the assailants, who was armed. A struggle ensued, during which the driver was shot in his left thigh.

The second victim, the 33-year-old passenger, managed to exit the vehicle and run to safety. The injured driver also escaped and alerted on-site security personnel. Security officers pursued the suspects, apprehended them some distance away, and recovered a Smith & Wesson revolver. The men and the

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seized weapon were handed over to officers of the Penal Criminal Investigations Department.

Following investigations led by WPC Noriega, both suspects were formally charged with the offences. They are expected to reappear in court on 25th August, 2025.

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END

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