



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

CoP Expresses Condolences Following Fatal Shooting of Boy, 11, as Two Suspects Remain in Custody

Commissioner of Police, Erla Christopher expresses deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of 11-year-old Ezekiel Paria, who tragically lost his life in a shooting incident yesterday.

Ezekiel, a student at Eastern Boys' Government Primary School, was fatally shot during an alleged attack on another individual at Laventille Road, Laventille yesterday, Thursday 22nd February, 2024.

Commissioner Christopher commented, "This senseless crime cuts deep as a young life was lost, and the opportunity to grow, develop and maximise his potential was taken away. I assure the public that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) is committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice, as two suspects allegedly involved in this crime are already in custody."

Police reports indicate that officers of the Port of Spain Task Force and Port of Spain Gang Intelligence Unit responded swiftly to a report of a shooting in progress at approximately 4:45 pm yesterday in the Gonzales Belmont area. The officers mobilized and intercepted a vehicle matching the description of the one used in the incident, leading to the apprehension of two individuals. A search of the vehicle yielded a quantity of marijuana, a pistol, and ammunition. Both suspects are currently in custody at the Besson Street Police Station, and investigations are ongoing.

The Commissioner stated, "We remain undaunted and relentless in our commitment to tackling gun violence and protecting the lives of all citizens, particularly our most vulnerable. I also commend the swift action and vigilance of the officers involved in the interception and eventual apprehension of the suspects and once again I urge anyone with information about this tragic incident to come forward and assist the investigation, so justice can be served in this matter."

Earlier today, officers from the Community Oriented Policing Section (COPS), as well as staff from the Victim and Witness Support Unit (VWSU) visited the Eastern Government Primary School to offer condolences on behalf of the Commissioner of Police and the Executive of the Division. Justin Rodriguez of the VWSU also conducted a brief session to help the students understand their emotions and feelings about the loss of their school mate. He also conducted other sessions with staff and students, aimed at giving them a sense of hope to cope during their time of loss.

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END