



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

**134 HENRY STREET
PORT OF SPAIN
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**
Telephone: (868) 612-5CCJ Fax: (868) 624-4710
Website: www.cci.org

MEDIA RELEASE

(For immediate release)

**No. 30:2024
03 September 2024**

STATEMENT BY THE CCJ PRESIDENT ON THE PASSING OF SIR SHRIDATH RAMPHAL

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. It is with deep sadness that the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) learned of the passing of Sir Shridath Ramphal, one of the region's greatest minds in diplomacy, law, and international relations.

As a distinguished lawyer, diplomat, and statesman, Sir Shridath Ramphal's contributions to the development of Caribbean jurisprudence and international law were unparalleled. His tenure as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and his pivotal role in ushering a new era of regional cooperation within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as Chair of the West Indian Commission are testaments to his unwavering commitment to the ideals of regional integration.

Sir Shridath's vision for an integrated Caribbean was not only rooted in political and economic unity but also in the strengthening of legal frameworks that protect the rights and freedoms of all Caribbean citizens. His advocacy for the establishment of a Caribbean final appellate court and a court to adjudicate over issues arising out of the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas were instrumental in the inception of the CCJ.

On behalf of the President, the Judges, and staff of the CCJ, we extend our deepest condolences to Sir Shridath Ramphal's family, friends, and colleagues. We share in the profound sense of loss felt across the Caribbean and the wider international community. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide us as we strive to realise the full potential of Caribbean integration.

In this time of mourning, we reflect on Sir Shridath's remarkable life and the indomitable spirit with which he served the Caribbean and the world. His contributions will forever be remembered and celebrated.

-end-

About the Caribbean Court of Justice

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005 and presently has a Bench of six judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders. The CCJ has an Original and an Appellate Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one. In its Original Jurisdiction, it is an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the rules set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) and to decide disputes arising under it. The RTC established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In its Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the CSME and all 12 Member States which belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC. In its Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean that alter their national Constitutions to enable the CCJ to perform that role. At present, five states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

For more information, please contact:
The Public Education & Protocol Unit
Tel: (868) 612-5225 ext. 2246, 2260
Email: ccjcomm@ccj.org