



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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STATEMENT BY THE CCJ PRESIDENT ON THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MELISSA

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. As a son of Jamaica, my heart is heavy as I witness the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa across our beloved island. On behalf of the Judges and staff of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ/Court), I extend my deepest sympathy to all those in Jamaica who have suffered the loss of loved ones, homes, and livelihoods during this difficult time.

The resilience and tenacity of the Jamaican people are legendary. In the face of adversity, we have always risen together stronger, wiser, and more united. I have every confidence that, with the steadfast spirit that defines us, Jamaica will rebuild once again and emerge from this tragedy stronger than ever.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Jamaica and, as a tangible expression of our support, the Court will be organising a collection drive among our Judges and staff in collaboration with only official donation channels to assist those most affected, continuing our tradition of standing with our Caribbean neighbours in times of hardship.

May courage, compassion, and hope light the path to recovery, and may the spirit of community that binds us as Caribbean people guide Jamaica toward renewal and restoration.

The Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson
President
Caribbean Court of Justice

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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 seven judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Winston Anderson. 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.

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