



Caribbean Federation of Police Welfare Associations

Office of the Caribbean Federation of Police welfare Associations, Police HQ, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, WI
www.cfpwa.org email: cfpwaoffice@gmail.com Tele #: 1 868 716 8628 / 1 246 834 4627

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This Press Release is made by The Caribbean Federation of Police Welfare Associations (CFPWA) after careful observation and consideration of the situation in Belize between Commissioner of Police and the selection of the Chairman of the Police Welfare Association. On October 17, 2018, CFPWA wrote to the then Commissioner of Police requesting a meeting, offering its services to mediate in an effort to bring to an end the unhealthy situation that continues to worsen up to today's date. This is unfortunate as there seems to be a lack of interest in abating the negative and injurious effects of the continued situation.

On January 9th, 2019 and thereafter the following events unfolded:

1. Elections were held for the Belize Police Welfare Association and among the persons contesting was Corporal Eldon Arzu and he was elected to serve the Association
2. The Commissioner of Police issued an order 11/01/2019 prohibiting an officer from serving no more than two terms as chairman (the only person this would affect was Corporal Eldon Arzu)
3. On January 22nd, 2019 Corporal Eldon Arzu was re-elected to serve as Chairman of the Association.
4. The Commissioner refused to recognize the decision of the membership
5. The Bank Account of the Association was frozen due to the ongoing situation
6. On March 21st, 2019 the matter was placed before the Court
7. On April 15th, 2019 the Commissioner froze the salary of Corporal Eldon Arzu in spite that he reports working every day at the Police Welfare Office which there are records to prove same.

Whilst we consider the laws of Belize that govern the Police Welfare Association are inconsistent with modern day practice and procedures, our concern is in the presence of a leadership style which has overridden the inadequacies of the existing laws and made matters worse by imposing a dictatorial style leadership that is transactional and unable to accede to present day practices that embrace mediation as a method of resolving disputes. It is imperative that the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police consider training and development in contemporary leadership styles as this situation demonstrates an unhealthy deficit in leadership.

We consider the actions of the Commissioner of Police to be a personal attack on Corporal Eldon Arzu and we are calling on the Government to respond to this situation which is an abuse of power and an attack on a Police Officer who has committed himself to serve his country. It requires the intervention of organizations such as the CFPWA who cannot allow such an atrocity to pass unnoticed. The CFPWA without reservation condemns the actions of the Police Commissioner and calls also on the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) to have this matter promptly addressed at their next Annual General Meeting with a view to ensuring Commissioners of Police practices professionalism and good governance in their leadership roles.

Through the leadership of the CFPWA, the Police Welfare Associations throughout the region have adopted a cohesive approach towards working in harmony with the Commissioners of Police to yield dividends for the betterment of the organisations and safety for the Caribbean community.

The End