



CARIBBEAN CENTRE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Caribbean Voices for Human Rights



In this newsletter,
you can expect:

State of Emergency

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March 2026 Newsletter

In March 2026, the Caribbean confronts a stark human rights dilemma: how to respond to extreme violence without eroding the very freedoms governments are meant to protect. Recent developments in Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti illustrate two sides of the same crisis—one where the state is strong and restrictive, and another where the state is weak and absent. In Trinidad and Tobago, the extension of the state of emergency reflects a government under pressure to curb rising violent crime. While such measures may offer short-term security, they come at a cost. Expanded police powers, including warrantless searches and detention without charge, raise serious concerns about civil liberties, due process, and potential abuse. When emergency powers become prolonged or normalized, the line between protection and overreach begins to blur, placing democratic principles at risk. Conversely, Haiti represents the devastating consequences of a state unable to enforce order. In March, the kidnapping of journalists highlighted the growing dangers faced by civilians, particularly those exercising freedom of expression. With gangs controlling large parts of the country, basic human rights—life, safety, and free speech—are routinely violated. Here, the absence of effective governance leaves citizens exposed to unchecked violence. Together, these cases reveal a troubling regional reality: whether through excessive control or insufficient authority, human rights are under threat. Caribbean governments must navigate this balance carefully. Security is essential, but it must not come at the expense of justice and accountability. Without this balance, the region risks trading one form of insecurity for another.



Trinidad & Tobago — State of Emergency (Civil Liberties)

The Caribbean nation has spent 10 of the last 14 months under an emergency status that curtails key civil liberties.

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2026 in Trinidad and Tobago (March events summary)

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Haiti — Extreme Violence & Press Freedom

Two (2) Haitian journalists abducted amid intensifying violence in Port-au-Prince.

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Over 1,200 killed in Haiti drone strikes, including 60 civilians: Human Rights

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2026 in Haiti (March events including kidnappings & flight ban)

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Cuba — Protests, Shortages & Rights

Protests erupt in Cuba as US restrictions spark food, energy shortages

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Arrests in Cuba Over the March 2026 Protests. Every day since March 6, 2026, Cubans have protested somewhere in the country.

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2026 in Cuba (blackouts, protests, arrests timeline)

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States of Emergency - Gang Suppression

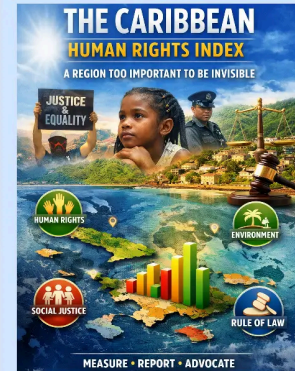
Do states of emergency in the Caribbean suppress gang violence or spread it?

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Kenyan troops start Haiti withdraw as Gang Suppression Force deployment nears

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A Region Too Important to Be Invisible



The foundation has been laid. The case has been made. The question now is urgent: will the Caribbean choose to be seen, measured, and respected—or continue to be overlooked.

Across more than 7,000 islands and over 18 nations, human rights realities are unfolding every day—too often in silence, too often without consequence, and too often without global recognition. Our challenges are real, but so too is our progress. Yet without a unified, credible standard, both injustice and achievement remain fragmented, diluted, and invisible on the world stage. The Caribbean Human Rights Index changes this. It is not just a report—it is a declaration. A declaration that our region will define its own standards, measure its own progress, and hold itself—and others—accountable. It transforms scattered stories into undeniable evidence. It gives the Caribbean a single, authoritative voice grounded in data, integrity, and truth. In a world driven by metrics and visibility, what is not measured is ignored. If we do not claim this space, it will remain empty—or be defined by others. The need is no longer theoretical. It is immediate. The opportunity is no longer abstract. It is within reach. What is required now is bold leadership—to ensure that no injustice in our region goes unseen, and no progress goes unrecognized.