

The Legislator

“One must spend time in gathering knowledge to give it out richly”



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International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), approximately **200 million** people are using illicit drugs such as cocaine, cannabis, hallucinogens, opiates and sedative hypnotics worldwide at least once a year. Of these, 25 million are regarded as drug dependent. **Every year 200,000 people die from drug-related illnesses.**



Young people are more susceptible to drug use. Prevalence of drug use among young people is more than twice as high as drug use among the general population; three times as high in the case of cannabis.

The UN General Assembly in December 1987, in their determination to create an international society free of drug abuse, decided to observe June 26 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Following this resolution, the years 1991 to 2000 were heralded as the “United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse”. Moreover, in 1998 the UN General Assembly adopted a political declaration to address the global drug problem.

‘Drug trafficking is a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws.’

At current levels, world heroin consumption (340 tons) and seizures represent an annual flow of 430-450 tons of heroin into the global heroin market. Of that total, opium from Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic yield some 50 tons, while the rest, some 380 tons of heroin and morphine, is produced exclusively from Afghan opium.

In 2007 and 2008, cocaine was used by some 16 to 17 million people worldwide, similar to the number of global opiate users.....

(For the continuation of this article check page 3)



Talk Yuh Mind!

Do you think that the legalization of marijuana in Trinidad and Tobago will result in a reduction of crime?



**Ramcharan Ramdass
Acting Auditor I**

The legalizing of marijuana will not reduce the crime rate in Trinidad and Tobago. Rather if marijuana is made legal there would be an increase in drug addicts, immoral behavior and further crimes being committed. Some have stated that marijuana is used for medical reasons; this is only a myth with no real supportive evidence



**Donielle Jones-Legal
Officer-Director of
Public Prosecution**

No, I don't think that the legalization of marijuana would reduce crime; as it is already the most commonly abused drug throughout the world and the leading cause of substance dependency other than alcohol. In T&T, there is a link with the use of marijuana to criminal activity. A survey at our national prison had shown that the most criminals are drug users. Thus, an increase in drug use will lead to an increase in other crimes being committed.



**Shanice Parris-
Human Resource
Dept.**

No, it would not reduce the crime rate in Trinidad and Tobago. Instead the reaction would be vice versa, there would be an increase in the crime rate. Also, currently marijuana is illegal in T&T and the crime is still very high.



**Claudette Noel-Chief
State Solicitor –
Accounts Dept**

Marijuana is not the reason for the increased crime rate in Trinidad and Tobago. Rather other causes; such as importation of illegal weapons and more illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, etc.



**Beverly Llewellyn -
Innovative Security
Ltd.**

It may decrease the crime to some level but other crimes will still be committed such as robberies, murder, sexual crimes, domestic crimes, etc.



**Christophe Rodriguez
Legal Officer-Director
of Public Prosecution**

No, the legalization of marijuana in Trinidad and Tobago will not reduce the crime rate because I have not seen a researched nexus between the use of marijuana and the commission of offences in general.

Welcome Inservice Trainees to the MoAG!



Left to Right-Alana Jadoonanan, Roamar Achat-Saney, Lindsay Webb, Lila Rodriguez-Roberts, Liann Horrel and Anastasia Mc Meo.



Back row- Sasha Ali-Khan, Christian Chandler, Anurani Chadeesingh, Jordana Bronte- Tinkew & Front row-Abraham Blackman and Shiva Boodoo.



Left to right- Avionne Bruno, Lea Thompson, Kelly Thomson, Charlene Williams, Maurissa De La Rosa, (Missing- Andrew Welch).



Left to right- Ahamad Khayam, Vinash Maharaj, Adanna Burris, Savatry Lopez and Roshini Balcaran.



Left to Right- Khelsey Maharaj, Giselle Ganess and Roshini Aguilar.

Feature

Drugs in Trinidad and Tobago

The drug problem in Trinidad and Tobago focuses on two major illicit drugs: cocaine, that is imported, and marijuana, some of which is imported but mostly produced locally. It has also been noted that alcohol, the most abused illicit substance, also contributes tremendously to our current drug problem. Estimates received from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service noted that trade value increased as a result of these activities by over **500 million US dollars (700%)** between 2000 and 2001.

Here are a few of the more popular drugs that we know locally: **Marijuana Cultivation of marijuana occurs primarily in remote areas. It is estimated that approximately 145.4 hectares are under illegal cannabis cultivation.**

Cocaine Trinidad and Tobago's proximity to the South American mainland has been cited as one of the major factors for our country's involvement in the illicit cocaine trade. However, there is no evidence of local cultivation.

Heroin Sources have confirmed that heroin is being smuggled along traditional cocaine routes. In June 2000, officials in Trinidad and Tobago seized **563 grammes of heroin, which would have been re-exported. Law enforcement agencies remain on the alert.**

Synthetic Drugs, At the Inter-American Conference on Drug related Gang Violence, held in Florida in October 2000, countries within the Western Hemisphere expressed concern over the increase in the abuse and manufacturing of **Methamphetamines** within the region. With the emergence of this new threat Trinidad and Tobago is taking steps, through collaboration with our international partners, to ensure that our law enforcement officers are equipped with the required knowledge in this area.

For more info on drugs check out:
www.drugsalcohol.info/drugs/default.asp

Book Talk -



'Misuse of Drugs'

Authors: Leonard Jason-Lloyd
ISBN: 978 1 84661 150 6
Price: £51

Misuse of Drugs by Leonard Jason-Lloyd (2009) is a work that discusses, comments and offers details on the area of law regulating controlled drugs.

It is an essential book for all professionals in the criminal justice system who come up against the problem of drug misuse, including criminal solicitors and barristers, police, probation officers, social workers and youth workers, customs and excise officers, magistrates and law clerks.

Chapters discuss topics such as: The development of drug controls; the unlawful possession of controlled drugs; controls over the supply of controlled drugs; controls over the production and manufacture of controlled drugs; drug activities on premises; conspiracy and attempt to commit drug offences; offences against corresponding Foreign law; police powers to tackle drug offences and sentencing powers of the Court for drug offences.

Appendix material: The characteristics and street names of the most commonly abused drugs; schedules of controlled drugs; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001; list of controlled drugs and respective classes.

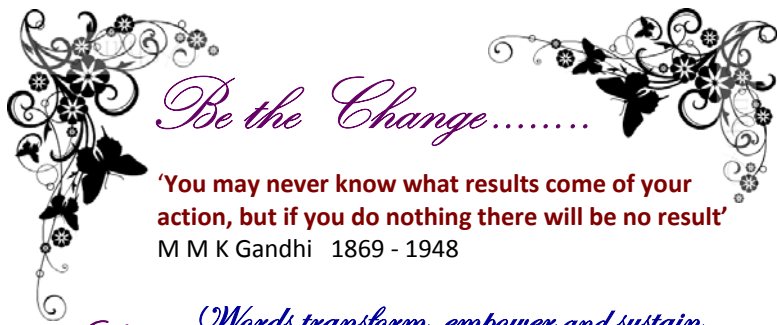
- 1.<http://www.jordanpublishing.co.uk/publications/crime/misuse-of-drugs>
- 2.http://www.amazon.co.uk/Misuse-Drugs-Jason-Lloyd-L/dp/1846611504/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpi_2

(continued from page 1) North America accounted for more than 40 per cent of global cocaine consumption (the total was estimated at around 470 tons), while the 27 European Union and four European Free Trade Association countries accounted for more than a quarter of total consumption. These two regions account for more than 80 per cent of the total value of the global cocaine market, which was estimated at \$88 billion in 2008.

For the North American market, cocaine is typically transported from Colombia to Mexico or Central America by sea and then onwards by land to the United States and Canada. Cocaine is trafficked to Europe mostly by sea, often in container shipments. Colombia remains the main source of the cocaine found in Europe, but direct shipments from Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia are far more common than in the United States market.

Following a significant increase over the period 2002-2005, global cocaine seizure totals have recently followed a stable trend, amounting to 712 tons in 2007 and 711 tons in 2008. Seizures continued to be concentrated in the Americas and Europe. However, the transition from 2007 to 2008 brought about a geographical shift in seizures towards the source countries for cocaine. Seizures in South America accounted for 59 per cent of the global total for 2008, compared with 45 per cent in 2007.

- Source: 1. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/index.html>
2. [UNODC World Drug Report 2010](#)
3. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/Studies-on-Drugs-and-Crime.html?ref=menuaside>
4. <http://www.un.org/en/events/drugabuseday/resources.shtml>



Be the Change.....

'You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result'
M M K Gandhi 1869 - 1948

I

Words transform, empower and sustain.

The words from the poem *Invictus*, Latin for **unconquerable**, accomplish this task. **William Ernest Henley** wrote this after having his leg amputated and despite his disability; he survived with one foot intact and led an active life until his death at the age of 53. While incarcerated on Robben Island prison for 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment, **Nelson Mandela** recited this poem to other prisoners and was **empowered by its message of self mastery.**

E

Cambio

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winc'd nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
**I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.**

What's Cooking!

Snowcapped Shake



Ingredients (1 serving)

- 2 small golden apples, seeded
- 1 ripe banana, peeled and cut into chunky pieces
- 2 cups natural yogurt, without sugar
- honey to taste

Preparation:

- 1 Process all ingredients in a blender until creamy.
- 2 Strain and serve chilled.

Trini Mudslide

Ingredients (1 serving)

- 1 oz Kahlua Coffee Liqueur
- 1 oz Amaretto Almond Liqueur
- 5 oz Chocolate Chip Ice Cream
- 1 ½ oz Whipped Cream
- Cherry Syrup
- 1 Cherry

Preparation:

- Place the first three ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Pour Cherry syrup around the inside rim of a rocks glass.
- Pour blended drink into glass, top with whipped cream and cherry.

Chill and Serve

Created by Mr. Ebo Jones



Resource Tip - The International Court of Justice <http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1>

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). The Court entertains two types of cases: legal disputes between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings).

The website offers:-

- cases in pdf format **free of charge**
(pending cases, contentious cases, advisory proceedings and judgments, advisory opinions and orders)
- cases from 1947 to the present
- catalogue of all publications of the Court

Comments & Feedback

We would like to thank all individuals for their contribution and continued support as well as Policy and Media, the participants of the Opinion Poll and the In Service Trainees of 2011.

Let's hear from you, our valued readers. Share ideas and suggestions! Email our editorial team at:

jpierre@ag.gov.tt, vimaharaj@ag.gov.tt or kjones@ag.gov.tt