



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The United States of America seeks return of Trinidad National**

Attorney General (Ag.), the Honourable Stuart Young on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 signed a WARRANT OF COMMITTAL (By Consent) which was presented before the Chief Magistrate (Ag.) Mrs. Maria Busby Earle-Caddle by the Central Authority Unit for the Extradition of DAVEANAN SOOKDEO, a national of Trinidad and Tobago. This stands as another victory for the Attorney General and the Central Authority Unit in the co-ordination of efforts with their international counterparts in the fight against crime.

Sookdeo is alleged to have committed the following offences: One (1) count of Conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit theft of government funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, which is punishable with a maximum term of five (5) years imprisonment; One (1) count of False claims to the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 287 and 2, which is punishable with a maximum term of five (5) years imprisonment; and One (1) count of Interstate and foreign transportation of money taken by fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2314 and 2, which is punishable with a maximum term of ten (10) years imprisonment. Sookdeo is alleged to have committed these offences between 2006 and 2010 in the United States of America and Canada, before fleeing to Trinidad and Tobago.

Attorney General, the Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, upon being advised by the Central Authority Unit that it had received a request from the United States of America for the extradition of Daveanan Sookdeo, signed the Authority to Proceed on July 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 which triggered the extradition process. Sergeant Narace of the Interpol Bureau swore to and obtained the Warrant of Arrest from the Court.

Sookdeo was arrested by Interpol Police Officers on July 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Debe South Trinidad and brought before the Chief Magistrate (Ag.) Mrs. Maria Busby Earle-Caddle sitting in the Port of Spain Eighth Magistrate Court on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017. Attorneys-at-Law Mr. Graeme Mc Clean, Head of the Central Authority Unit, together with Mr. Netram Kowlessar appeared for the Requesting State the United States of America. Sookdeo consented to being extradited to the United States of America before the Chief Magistrate (Ag.) and the matter was adjourned to August 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Attorneys-at-Law Mr. Netram Kowlessar and Mr. Graeme Mc Clean appeared in Court on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 for the Requesting State whilst Mr. Richard Clarke-Wills appeared for Sookdeo. The Chief Magistrate (Ag.) Mrs. Maria Busby Earle-Caddle took evidence from Sookdeo, read the Warrant of Committal (By Consent) to him and committed him to the State Prison pending his removal to the United States of America to face the charges against him.

The Attorney General is committed to working with law enforcement agencies in the Caribbean and other international bodies to confront and fight the scourge of crime.

END

DATED: August 16<sup>th</sup> 2017