

**SUMMARY – Information compiled by the Guyana Human Rights Association
(2006/2005)**

1) 2006 Extra-Judicial Executions

As at Sept. 30, 2006: total = 12 , in comparison to total of 2005 = 18.

Note: Police Complaints Authority (PCA) investigated 11 police killings in 2005, recommending murder charges in 2 cases and 1 manslaughter.

Coroner’s inquests were ordered in the 8 other cases, but up to end of Jan. 2006, none held. The GHRA is of the opinion that the work of the PCA has steadily improved over the last years with field visits being made to a number of outlying Regions (Berbice, Essequibo, Rupununi) but there is need for more professional staff to assist the Chairman, Justice Kennard (former Chancellor of the Judiciary) to follow-up complaints press for holding of inquests, press for timely resolution of complaints/crimes. *In January 2006, PCA Chair stated he would like to see implementation of recommendation made by the Disciplined Forces Commission (2003) for his office to be furnished with its own investigators. PCA currently depends on GPF to conduct investigations into allegations against its members.*

ii. The GHRA has received in the vicinity of **15 complaints of police abuse or brutality (2005)**. Brutality occurs most frequently in the course of affecting an arrest, and on detainees in police custody (figure also includes ‘non-fatal’ shootings by police.

ii. During the period in which Commissioner Felix was in charge of the GPF, with Ms. Gail Teixeira as Minister of Home Affairs, (new Home Affairs Minister recently installed is Mr. Clement Roheee), there was a decline in brutality and abuse. During that period **over 80 officers were charged with breaches of discipline and before the courts** which contributed to the decline. Commissioner Felix during 2-days Workshop ‘*Crime Analysis and Solutions*’ held in October 2005 stated: “My own view is that for the Police Force to have a credible image we must remove from our midst those who are of ill intent....A law enforcement agency does not need to have in its midst people who are inclined to wrongdoing.” He pointed out it’s human to err but “when we talk of violence, dishonesty and corruption, persons with those traits ought not to be associated with the law enforcement agency, because law enforcement officers first of all must gain the trust and confidence of the public”. Re #80 of cops before courts, Minister Gail Teixeria stated: “We may be ashamed of it because it is a large number, but at the same time we should be pleased since there is a will to bring dirty cops into the Court.”

During 2006 that decline is being reversed in the context of high levels of violent crime and pressure on the police to deliver results. (Note 1: Shooting to death of Agriculture Minister Satyadeow Sawh, his sister, brother-in-law and security guard at Minister's home on April 21 – first time in Guyana and Caribbean a Minister murdered in such a brutal manner. An official investigation is still to be held.) (Note 2: GHRA still monitoring whether the Commissioner (Ag) is identifying with the efforts of his predecessor with respect to enforcing acceptable standards of behaviour.)

Statements made by the President of the Republic and other senior Ministers of Government during the recent elections campaign to the effect that criminals must be killed, encourage police strategies which rely on force, unrestrained by concerns about restraints or excess.

Recent statement by Commissioner (Ag.) Greene viewed by GHRA as 'disturbing and contravening regulations', cf. Oct. 16 Stabroek News: 'Cops in mask a security tactic, says Greene'.

Conditions in police lock-ups are again deteriorating. GHRA has received complaints about the condition of the Brickdam lock-ups from both police ranks and detained persons.

Conditions in the Ruimveldt lock-up which is used to detain juveniles remain inadequate, over-crowded and inhumane. The wooden holding cells were replaced by concrete cells with limited access to light and air and do not meet basic standards. The GHRA has received complaints of allegations of brutality against young detainees, inflicted both by inmates and the police.

2. Several complaints noted of arbitrary arrest and detention. Certain officers detain persons vindictively or at the request of friends out to settle scores. There have also been examples of this behaviour being repeated because the GHRA or the victim have complained to the Commissioner of Police or the Office of Professional Responsibility or the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). The PCA received approximately 340 complaints against the police in 2005 including: 113 complaints of ranks neglecting their duties; 61 against unlawful arrest; 11 unlawful killings; 3 unnecessary use of violence; 3 for corrupt transaction; 123 for wrongful seizure of firearms and motor vehicle; 3 for rude behaviour; 23 for ranks misbehaving in public places.

To the extent that the society is demanding curbs on criminal activity, an atmosphere of impunity prevails with respect to the manner arrests are effected.

Ref: Stabroek News report Jan. 8, 2006: PCA: Investigated 11 police killings in 2005, recommending murder charges in in 2 cases and 1 manslaughter. Coroner's inquests were ordered in the 8 other cases, but to date none held (Jan 2006). PCA rec'd 269 complaints against the police in 2005.

Chairman stated that authority serving its purpose but undermined by sloth in submitting reports of investigations requested. Total of 114 reports outstanding related to minor infringements by police ranks, but often not submitted on time. But prompt with major matters – improvements re reports on police shootings. 2005: 113 complaints of ranks neglecting their duties; 61 against unlawful arrest; 11 unlawful killings; 3 unnecessary use of violence, three for corrupt transaction; 12 for wrongful seizure of firearms and motor vehicle; 3 for rude behaviour; 23 for ranks misbehaving in public places.

Adequate staff but need for more space, also room for conducting interviews separately. Chair stated would like to see implementation of recommendation made by Disciplined Services Commission for his office to be furnished with its own investigators. PCA currently depends on GPF to conduct investigations into allegations against its members. 'Kennard said there was a time in Guyana's history when killings by the police were rampant. He said the PCA has been able to stem the tide as many officers have now realized that they are not immune to charges'. "More and more police are behaving themselves and that wanton killing of civilians have stopped."

Jan 2006: Police investigated 780 robberies in which guns were used and seized a record 145 firearms in 2005. Stats from Police HQ, Eve Leary revealed that in 2004 police investigated 516 robberies in which guns were used. 24 less cases of rape in 2005 than in previous year. In 2004 there were 780 reported cases of rape, while there were 756 rape reports in 2005. Police reported decrease of murders in 2005: 125 homicides in comparison to 131 in 2004, 206 in 2003 and 142 in 2002. 79 homicides in 2001.

Aug 2006: Statement by Ag. Commissioner Henry Greene: by mid-August 673 robberies involving use of fire-arms, compared with 466 for same period last year, 3 armed robberies per day (1 every 8 hrs.)

NON-FATAL SHOOTINGS/BRUTALITY (Jan. - Aug.2006)

- 21 Feb** **Sean Prince** shot in leg by rural constable after escaping 2nd time from Sparendam, East Coast Demerara (*Region 4*) lock-up. When ranks opened cell, alleged that Prince grabbed padlock from door and hit policeman. Prince, former police, allegedly of unsound mind.
- 14 June** **Sewchand Bachan, 18-yr old** of Logwood, Enmore, allegedly shot in lower abdomen in station while making a phonecall - from loaded handgun of policeman who was 'playfully swinging it in his hand'. Since the family had no landline telephone, young Bachan would usually visit the station to make p.calls.
- 31 July** **Paul Singh, 17 yrs old**, shot in Agricola backdam by police who claimed in confrontation with a gang, wanted in connection with murders of 4 persons on ECD. Relatives claimed he's 17 yrs old, not 22, as stated by police, that youth had lost one of his kidneys, damaged liver and spinal column and may not walk again. Singh claimed he was going to swimming with friends, denied being part of any gang.
- 3 Aug** **Aaaron Jansz**, Visiting British citizen, allegedly beaten about the head by police who wrongfully accused him of armed robbery of shop owner at Republic Ave. Linden (*Region 10*). Grandmother Eula Morris stated that Jansz was visiting Guyana for first time when he was walking along with his 16-yr old cousin (between 4-4.30 pm) when a car pulled up, police got out, pushed Jansz to the ground and beat him about the head. Morris stated that grandson thought he was being attacked by bandits, raised his hands and said "I don't have any money." Police then took Jansz and his cousin down to shop owner who identified them as the men who had robbed him. Each placed on bail of \$25,000. Police took J's passport and told him to report to station each morning. On Aug 30 when police returned to shop owner for statement, he claimed it was not Jansz who committed the act.

DEATHS IN POLICE LOCK-UPS (Jan.- June 2006)

- 25 Jan **George Kanhai**, 60 yrs, father of 3, arrested for larceny of a firearm found dead in cell, hanging by his shirt from grill door at Timehri lock-ups. Wife stated he was well when she took food for him night before. "They told me that he killed himself and a shirt was around his neck but I do not know of any reason why he would end his life" wife stated. Another prisoner made discovery of death.
(No inquest to date.)
- 20 June** **Seon Andrews**, of Atlantic Gardens, mentally ill, being held at Sparendam Police Station, found dead in cell. Police claim Andrews hit his head against the walls of his cell and died. Andrews' family claim he was beaten by police and died of blows. Man was taken to station Sunday June 18 by his mother, Jacqueline Andrews, after he displayed violent behaviour at home. Placed in lock-up pending necessary documents for committal to Ob. Ward PHG.
(No inquest to date.)
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2005 ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY/INHUMAN TREATMENT

(2004 – Dec/ 27: **Policeman Robin Marques, 39 yrs of Buxton, East Coast Demerara, indecently assaulted 14- yr old and attacked her father Albert Roberts.** Teenager was walking along Mandela Avenue, Georgetown (*Region 4*), when Marques fondled her breast. On arrival home she complained to father who confronted Marques. Marques allegedly left the scene, returned shortly with rum bottle and threw liquid contents on father causing him to be hospitalized for 2 wks. with severe burns to face and neck. RM pleaded not guilty to 3 charges and was put on \$10,000 bail by Acting Chief Magistrate Cecil Sullivan.

6 Jan Dayanand Nathoo, minibus driver, allegedly beaten by Corporal Naylene Boyce and Constable Clyde Douglas at Vreed-en-Hoop station (West Coast Demerara – *Region 3*); suffered 2 fractured ribs and swollen face. Nathoo was charged with provoking breach of peace and causing bodily harm and failure to behave in a civil manner.

Basmattie, mother-in-law of Nathoo, lost consciousness after allegedly assaulted by female police at Vreed-en-Hoop on making enquiries about son-in-law. Basmattie was accused of using abusive and insulting language to Corporal Boyce, and creating breach of the peace.

8? Jan Police constable threatened to inform employers of **Ellis**, a cook in mining camp (*Region 7*) that he was stealing food supply from mining camp. Ellis later saw the constable talking to mining official, cook confronted constable, quarrel ensued, constable allegedly punched cook on the mouth, mining employees restrain men and evicted constable from compound. Constable allegedly went to Sharima police station and returned with a cutlass chopping Ellis on arms. Brawl continued at police station with men tumbling thro' window to ground below. Ellis admitted to Bartica Hospital while cop detained at Bartica police station.

27 Jan Harrikissoon called Devo, Vreed-en-Hoop (*Region 3*) vendor allegedly abducted by 3 men, including 2 serving mbrs of Guyana Police Force (GPF) (Aubrey Hercules and Devon Forrester), and former policeman- Troy Williams –taken to Schoonord and beaten. They claimed vendor owed them some money. On same day ex-cop Martin Junior Ramdeen allegedly restrained Harrikissoon wrongfully. 4 men subsequently arrested: Hercules, Forrester and Williams not required to plead to charge of abduction while Ramdeen pleaded not guilty to wrongful restraint.

Feb Joel Fariah (28yrs.),(*Region 4*) shot in thigh by police (friendly with reputed wife) after Fariah attempted to talk with his daughter at gate of (mother)reputed wife.

10 Feb 3 policemen – Ramjit Patrick of Somerset and Berks, Essequibo Coast, Anil Shividhan of Wash Clothes, Mahaicony and Carlos Blair of 91 John Stret, Campbellville, each put on \$10,000. bail by Acting Chief Magistrate Cecil Sullivan (Feb 24) for robbing **Keith Ato** of \$980 cash and a silver chain and band (total = \$6,080.) Police Inspector Kevin Adonis stated 3 were in civilian clothes when they stopped virtual complainant who was walking in front of them along Brickdam, Georgetown (*Region 4*). Ato became afraid and ran but 3 chased after him in front of Demico House where they identified themselves and stole his jewels while handcuffing him. Ato felt hands in his pockets and on reaching destination defendants gave him \$80 and released him. Ato discovered money missing and returned to station where he made a report and subsequently identified the three.

15 Apr Paul Orlando, allegedly shot by police patrol about 8.30 pm along Regent St. Bourda, Georgetown (*Region 4*).

- 28 April** Taxi driver, 52 yrs, **Hubert Andrews, of South Ruimveldt** was attacked and almost strangled with piece of wire by **Special Constable Diyodhor Ramkirit from (Police Training School Eve Leary) La Penitence, and 2 teenagers – David Pitt of Campbellville and Richard Singh, 16yrs, Kitty.** (Singh to serve time in New Opportunity Corps.) According to reports, Andrews was in taxi along Regent St around 22.00 hrs when 3 men stopped him. Andrews agreed to take them to a location on East Bank Demerara for \$2,000. While on EBD public road men asked Andrews to turn in to Diamond Housing Scheme, allegedly to drop off one of passengers. In vicinity of second bridge in Diamond, front seat passenger pulled out handgun and pressed it to Andrew's head. Passenger in back seat wrapped length of wire around driver's throat and attempted to strangle him. Andrews realized gun was made of plastic and began to fight attackers. Men dropped gun and ID card – belonging to Special Constable. Driver reported robbery to Grove station and Providence. Ranks from Grove spotted 3 men at DDL. Taxi driver immediately recognized them. Reported in *Kaiteur News* that Commissioner Felix had Constable Aramkirit dismissed with immediate effect. 3 accused with armed robbery in front of Magistrate Adrian Thompson.
- 21 Jun** Corp. Hilliman of Brickdam Enquiries office allegedly assaulted **Sergeant** in office who tried to restrain him from hitting his wife (Special Constable) who had brought a complaint on Williams to station.
- 8 July** Responding to altercation between 2 employees (Sookdeo & Prem Kumar) of Pooneshwar Dookie (rice/cattle farmer), police shot **Sookdeo** claiming Sookdeo attempted to attack rank with cutlass.
- 9 Aug** **Leila Prittupaul** of Area 'AA', Kingston, Corriverton (*Region 6*), mother of 8, nursing a 7-mth old baby, arrested and held at the Springlands police station overnight even tho' she and her husband begged officers to allow her to return home to nurse baby daughter. According to Prittupaul a group of abt 5 policemen under command of officer-in-charge of Springlands station in the company of her 19 yr old daughter visited her home in the afternoon accusing her of refusing to hand over her clothing to her daughter. Prittupaul explained that her daughter had left home in July after several bouts of discord in family over girl's behaviour. "One of the pc asked my daughter if I was her mother and she said 'yes'. The officer-in-charge then instructed in a very rude manner that I be taken to the station. When my husband asked the officer why, he was told to shut his mouth. When he told the senior officer that I had a baby that was nursing, he said he was not concerned and I would have to remain at the station." Prittupaul sated that she had explained to the officers that the clothes which her daughter claimed belonged to her was bought by the parents and that the girl had left on her own 'without their blessings'. At the station the husband again enquired why she was being held and was warned not to say anything and told to leave the compound. Prittupaul complained later that night to officers about pain in her breasts which were filled with milk and of a fever she had developed. "I pleaded with them to let me go home and nurse my baby but was again told in a harsh manner to shut up." The following day she was put on bail of \$5000. She sent a message to her brother who paid the bail and she was released around 3.30 pm. She was told by one of the policemen she had been charged and would have to go to court the following day. Prittupaul stated she was not told of the charge. At first hearing she was told by the Magistrate she had been charged with threatening behaviour and assault. The police accused her of chasing her daughter with a cutlass – an allegation Prittupaul denied and which was never told to her when officers went to her home. After daughter failed to appear in court on 3 occasions the matter was dismissed by the magistrate.
- 28 Aug** **Rastafarian vendor** in boarding minibus to take produce to G/t nearby to Leonora Police Station (*Region 3*) about 02.10 hrs. basket of vendor mistakenly touched one of group of 7 policemen. Policeman allegedly cursed vendor, verbal altercation took place and police stopped vehicle by Leonora Old Road, dragged vendor out of minibus and beat him. Allegations made by other passengers that the group of police were under influence of alcohol returning from dance in Vergenoegen.

Sept Shameer Hack, minibus conductor, allegedly brutally assaulted and his clothes damaged by a detective abt 16.45 hrs. at Kitty/C.ville Bus Park near. Stabroek Market, Georgetown (*Region 4*). Police joined the bus en route to park, paid with a \$1000 dollar note but conductor had no change. When bus reached the park conductor returned money to the police and told him not to bother with the fare. Police walked away but turned back and began accusing conductor of giving him a counterfeit note. "He start fuh cuff me up and tear up me jersey. A traffic rank see and come fuh see wha happening, and he start fuh cuss up de traffic man." Hack stated that he explained that he had no other \$1000 bill on his person and it was the same note that police had given him that he returned. He offered to go with the CID rank to the Brickdam station. While there it was discovered the note was a genuine one. Hack then threatened to seek redress from the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). This led the detective to offer Hack \$1000 to settle the matter. He refused, while others at station told him 'he stupid, he should'a tek de money and le de matter done.'

20? Sept Police Corporal placed under close arrest, with GPF contemplating taking action under the Domestic Violence Act, after he beat his reputed wife, a member of special constabulary, at a popular night spot (*Region 4*). Reputed wife was in night spot with friends when police came in and began verbally abusing her and beat her in front of friends. Matter taken to Commissioner who immediately placed corporal under close arrest. Earlier in the year corporal was involved in an altercation with ranks at Kitty station after reputed wife reported that he had physically assaulted her.

24 Sept Policeman, Dwayne Jeffrey (25 yrs) accused of **raping 15-year old** while in custody at East La Penitence police station (*Region 4*). Jeffrey not required to plead to indictable charge of rape and later released on \$60,000. by Magistrate Bertlyn Reynolds. Defence lawyer Simone Morris-Ramlall told court her client is serving member of force and 2nd year Public Management student at UG.

4 Oct Police MacMillan George, 22 yrs, accused of wounding **Winston Junior** -travelling in same minibus -with illegal firearm in haste to hide it as he approached roadblock on Houston Public Road, East Bank Demerara (*Region 4*). Placed on 4 charges: discharging loaded firearm with intent, felonious wounding and unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition. Remanded to prison by Magistrate Reynolds.

29 Nov ASP George Richards charged for indecent assault allegedly committed on his **13-yr old stepdaughter**. Police accused of attempting to rape girl at his home in Guyhoc (*Region 4*); child raised alarm causing mother to intervene. Mother made report to police. Mother later indicated to court that she no longer wished to pursue matter, didn't want girl to go through trauma.

19 Dec **Edmond Harry** (39yrs), fisherman, allegedly beaten by group of police at the Springlands Police Station (*Region 6*). Marks of violence: cut over left eye (4 stitches) and back, swollen lips and deep cuts on hands and feet shown to a *Stabroek News* reporter. Harry stated that he, his son and cousin were standing outside of the Reno Night Club abt 10pm when a man in civilian clothes came up to him with a gun and pushed him, telling him to get off the road. There was an exchange of words and EH 'jumped on motorcycle and was about to ride home' but 'the man grabbed me from behind around the neck while another who I recognized as a policeman came up and asked me if I did not know I was speaking to any inspector of police, referring to the man who was holding me'. According to Harry he had never seen the man before nor did he identify himself to him. Following intervention by his son and other bystanders, Harry said he was released and he entered the night club. He later exited through the rear and walked home. His motorcycle was kept by the police. His wife, **Gaitree Bridgemohan**, however insisted that they should return to the night club to bring their son home. "Whilst walking toward Reno (night club) a vehicle with 5 pc (names given) came up and stopped. They came out of the vehicle and started beating my husband. When I asked them why they were beating him the man who was referred to earlier as an inspector held me by my shirt collar and chucked me to the ground." EH was thrown into vehicle and one of the pc placed his foot on his throat. On arrival at station Harry was thrown

over the counter. "They all joined in beating me with their guns and kicking me. The inspector wrote something on a paper and told me to sign it but I refused. They refused to allow my wife, children or other relatives to see me or tell them why they had arrested me and why they were beating me."

DEATHS IN POLICE LOCK-UP/STATION 2005

July 13 Eon Forrester (34yrs) while in General Enquiries section of East La Penitence Police Station, Georgetown (*Region 4*) was fatally shot in abdomen. Police stated that he was charged for simple larceny and fraudulent conversion and was accidentally shot in a scuffle between police and a 'violent detainee' who was being processed at station; relatives maintain that Forrester had a business arrangement with a female police stationed at EBD station who had loaned him her grass-cutter to operate and he would provide her with \$5,000 per week. Since he had not worked for 2 weeks he could not turn over any money to female police who arrested him along with 2 other police and took him to East La Penitence where he was fatally shot.

PCA recommended Forrester be charged with manslaughter; also recommended that policewoman be disciplined since she had abused her position of authority in trying to settle a private matter. PCA also found Forrester was wrongfully detained.

DPP upheld PCA recommendation for rank to be charged with manslaughter; Commissioner Felix signed document for charges to be laid – rank still not placed before the court (as of Aug. 21).

Note: Death of **Ramesh Etwaroo** found dead in LaGrange Police lock-up n **July 6 2004:** Brother of RE, Inderjeet Etwaroo, filed a writ of mandamus against Registrar of Births and Deaths after they refused to insert correct place of death on death certificate. In sworn affidavit, IE stated that on July 2 2004 his brother Ramesh was arrested and taken into police custody at the LaGrange station on an allegation of larceny of 2 gold rings from a villager. On July 6 father was told that son RE was being taken to Leonora Magistrate's court but son never appeared. Subsequent check revealed that a hearse from the Thomas Funeral Home was at the LaG police station to remove a body. Relatives became suspicious that the hearse was removing body and stopped the driver and enquired about dead body. Driver came out of vehicle and removed the canvas from the dead body and mother identified it was son RE. The family was not allowed to witness the post-mortem but allowed to identify the body to police present and to pathologist. On July 15th. 2004 when pathologist issued registration of death, relatives realized that the place of death was stated as West Dem Hospital. Chief Justice Carl Singh ordered that Ms. Greta McDonald appear before him on Sept 12 2005 to show cause why she would not issue a death certificate with correct place of death. (Autopsy revealed that he died from 'subdural hemorrhage due to blunt trauma to his head compounded by gastrointestinal.' There were abrasions on kneecap and contusion to right of forehead.)

POLICE KILLED ON DUTY - 2005

- Jan ? **Lance Corporal Ramnarine Latchana and ASP Richard Griffith** shot to death when former TSU Sergeant Blackman went on rampage in Brickdam station. 2 other pc wounded.
- March (5?)** **Constable Francois** shot in leg when gunmen in Buxton opened fire on patrol.
- May 17 7 Policemen** injured during 5-hour shoot-out between police and gunmen in Buxton, East Coast Demerara.
- July** 166th. Anniversary of GPF: Note: Between 1913 and 2004 43 officers killed in line of duty. 21 died between 1913 and 2001 **while 22 killed from 2002-2004 during unprecedented crime wave.**

NOTES 2005

POLICE Complaints Authorit(PCA): Extract: Report – PCA Chairman Justice Kennard :
160 outstanding cases against police for which the police had not submitted reports. Most of reports - minor breaches by lawmen dated back as far back as 2002. 2002: 6 outstanding reports, 49 for 2003, 77 for 2004 and for Jan.to July 2005- 110. Since meeting of PCA Chair with Commissioner on matter, within days 82 files were sent to him. PCA Chair reported that up to Aug 2005 he had rec'd 100 reports. Commissioner Felix had explained that the Deputy Commissioner in charge of admin was under pressure – also staff shortages contributed to delay.

Inciteful Paid newspaper Ads: Aug 22 +++ Appeared in *Kaitaur News*: “**SHOW NO MERCY!** Bandits have declared war on business people. They shoot to kill. Almost daily, Guyana is losing her best investors and job-creators. The security forces owe citizens a duty to meet force with force. Our business community must enlist in this fight. **BE VIGILANT! BE PREPARED!** Get involved in legitimate self-defence! No quarters must be given! Show no mercy to ruthless and cold-blooded killers! Stop them now before they get us all!” (Paid Ad – “Committee of Concerned Businessmen/Women” (Ad appears several times in *KN* despite GPF criticism/warning.)

GPF criticized ad carried in KN on Aug 22 : wished to “advise all persons that the advert is at best misleading and seems intended to incite persons to take up arms”. “The force is calling on all law abiding citizens and right thinking persons not to be lured into the excesses towards which they are being exhorted, rather to think carefully and act wisely at all times.” Statement further reminded that the use of force must at all times be guided by the situation which confronts the user.

Police before courts: Over 80 law enforcement officers before the courts. “We may be ashamed of it because it is a large number but at the same time we should be pleased since there is a will to bring dirty copes into the Court” – Home Affairs Minister Teixeira at 2-days workshop ‘Crime:Analysis and Solutions’. Commissioner Felix strongly supported the view of ‘flushing out’ corrupt cops. He noted it is a policy the Force will maintain. “My own view is that for the Police Force to have a credible image, we must move from our midst those who are of ill intent”. He stated that officers who are corrupt use more force than is necessary, and commit offences against the law that will not be condoned. “A law enforcement agency does not need to have in its midst people who are inclined to wrongdoing.” He pointed out that it is human to err “but when we talk of violence, dishonesty and corruption, persons with those traits ought not to be associated with the law enforcement agency, because law enforcement officers first of all must gain the trust and confidence of the public.”

Sept 130 cases of police misconduct reported to Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR=police internal investigative board, headed by retired Deputy Commissioner Mohamed Jameer). OPR stated that Members of the public showing more confidence in the police OPR, with the Georgetown division making up the majority, ECD and West Dem accounting for 2nd and 3rd. most cases. Neglect of duty in which policemen fail to take action in matters reported to them makes up the most prevalent complaints....”these matters have been dealt with internally with many officers facing disciplinary action such as transfers and dept. fines”. Allegations of assault – 2 criminal charges laid and allegations of corrupt practices – 4 charges make up remainder of cases.

7-Person Committee to investigate allegations that Members of Quick Reaction Group or ‘Black Clothes’ are involved in criminal activities and soliciting sexual favours....following mass protests by residents in Corentyne, Berbice (*Region 6*) who had placed burning tyres, derelict vehicles and low bed trailer to block traffic – police used tear gas and fired pellets on demonstrators. Recommendations made at Nov. 28 meeting of residents of Tain, Clifton and John’s Settlements, Corentyne with Minister of Home Affairs, Gail Teixeira. Nominations: Chancellor Cecil Kennard, Principal Magistrate Krishendat Persaud, Magistrate Geeta Chandon, Private Investigator Errol Vanooten, Savina Jagernath, Budrajan Balkaran and Nigel Ramsammy (another person to be appointed by Minister). Additionally, 4-man team from OPR wld also investigate charges of corruption and other admin matters: Supt. Eustace Trotman and Ivan Daniels, Deputy Supt. And former Crime Chief Vibert Smith and Sergeant Kenrick Parris.

Nov 27: Commissioner Felix stated that although **a juvenile detention centre** should be high on govt’s agenda, the police force is low on resources at present. “Until such time as a juvenile remand facility is built, ranks should detain, treat and deal with these individuals in the most judicious manner.” (2 police stations being built at Sophia and Diamond will have approx 6 custody cells for underage offenders unlike the usual 2-celled stations.)

Nov More than a year on Parliament Committee (July 2004: Chair Bernard DeSantos) **still to issue security forces report:** The Select Committee reviewing the *Disciplinary Forces recommendations* has been working with extended tenure after it exceeded original 4-mth deadline set by the House after it approved the 164 proposals contained in Commission’s Report (2003).

Nov 25: Crime stats: Deputy Police Commissioner Henry Greene (presentation on GPF xmas planning meeting): Summary:
While there is a decrease in all serious crimes in Guyana, including murder and rape, robbery under arms rose by 50% from Jan. 1 to 20 compared to 2004. There is an 8% overall decrease in all serious crimes so far in 2005 compared to 2004. 50% increase in robbery under arms included firearms and other weapons – most of guns used originated from Brazil. Police press release stated up to Oct 2005 of 1,093 robberies under arms, guns were used in 748 of them. For same period 2004 guns were used in 593 robberies. Police seized 118 illegal guns compared with 85 in 2004. Commissioner Felix noted that this figure would amount to one gun every 3 days. “It is becoming a routine thing. You stop some young men and you get a gun.”