

September 27, 2012

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship is shocked and outraged by the rape of five females by two gun-men in Irvin St. James on Monday, September 24. The females included three children aged 8, 14 and 16 years, and two adults aged 23 and 28 years, who were tied up and brutally raped and robbed. This incident is another in a series of vicious sexual and violent crimes against our women.

We are especially concerned at the state of security and safety in St. James considering that just last month two pregnant mothers were also murdered by gunmen in the Parish. We would also like to bring your attention to the 11 year old girl from Carlton Mountain St. Ann who was allegedly molested and impregnated by her 63 year old grand-uncle.

We urge our Police Force to leave no stone unturned as they investigate these heinous crimes. At the same time we urge members of the community not to take the law into their own hands but to leave the process of apprehension of the suspects to our security forces. The rule of law must prevail.

Unfortunately we are now seeing the co-relation between the unfortunate choices that many of our people have made and the ills prevailing in our society. Many of our people have sacrificed the practice of wholesome family values and effective parenting at the altar of self-interest, greed and lust.

Greater attention needs to be paid to the care and protection of our girls and women. There needs to be an end to the sexualization and objectification of women in our society especially in our music, on television, in advertisements and in the media. Particular attention must be given to the strengthening and enforcement of the Obscene Publications Act. We must encourage musicians, artists and the media to promote wholesome family values, respect for our girls, women and mothers. There needs to be heavier sentences for all sexual crimes. We call on the government to increase funding and resources to CISOCA and to the Police Force in order to improve their ability to bring the guilty to justice.

The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship would like to encourage the public to join in the protest action in Half-Way-Tree tomorrow at 10am. The organizers are asking all members of the public to wear full black. If unable to attend the protest we ask that you observe two minutes of silence at 10am. Please use this time to say a special prayer for the victims of these crimes and for the women and children of Jamaica.

Shirley Richards  
Interim President