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**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
PRESS RELEASE**

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Correctional facilities and human rights abuses to be addressed under three EU funded Human Rights projects

Children and adults in correctional facilities are among the beneficiaries of three local human rights projects launched today (October 10). The projects which will receive combined funding of €370,000 (just over **JMD\$52 million**) from the European Union will be implemented by Stand Up for Jamaica (SUFJ), Jamaicans for Justice (JFJ) and the British Council (BC). Today's launch also coincides with the recognition of *World Day Against the Death Penalty* which focuses on the international action against capital punishment and the promotion of human rights with the ultimate goal of the worldwide abolition of this form of punishment.

While none of the projects will address capital punishment, their focus on the rehabilitation of inmates in the correctional system including juveniles (SUFJ); strengthening civil society's role in the promotion of human rights and democracy in Jamaica (BC); and combatting impunity within the Jamaican security and police forces by providing legal support to individuals who may have had their rights abused (JFJ), will contribute to the promotion of human rights, in particular by improving access to justice and by developing rehabilitation programmes for inmates.

The launch which was held at the British High Commission was attended by representatives of the Government, the Opposition, the Security forces, the Diplomatic corps and Civil Society.

Head of the EU Delegation in Jamaica; Ambassador Paola Amadei emphasised the permanent and universal nature of human rights, and the importance of not only collective but individual responsibility in ensuring their protection. *"Promoting peace, democracy and human rights is an everyday obligation, and we encourage action both nationally and in multilateral fora. This commitment does not stop at the border of the European Union, and it is these principles which allowed to the EU to be awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize."* She said.

The projects have been funded through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), an important global instrument which focuses on enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Information on the projects is attached:

1. **Stand up for Jamaica:** "Rehabilitation of Inmates: A professional and artistic way to come back in the society"
EU contribution: **JMD\$10.3 M**
2. **British Council:** "Strengthen the role played by Civil Society in Jamaica in promoting human rights and democracy"
EU contribution: **JMD\$21 million**
3. **Jamaicans for Justice:** "Combating impunity by strengthening legal support"
EU contribution: **JMD\$ 21 million**

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