

# **News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending February 12, 2011**

## **Dutch Caribbean - Venezuela-Aruba-Curacao Gas Pipeline on Agenda**

Aruba PM Mike Eman reportedly asked Curacao PM Schotte to put the Venezuela-Aruba-Curacao gas pipeline project on the agenda for PM Schotte's planned (though as yet unscheduled) meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Last year, the countries expressed support for continued cooperation between Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA and the refineries in Aruba and Curacao. It is widely expected that Schotte will visit Venezuela later this month for a meeting with President Chavez. (Various media)

## **Kingdom – 20% of Drug Traffickers Are From the Dutch Caribbean**

A Dutch Court report revealed that 20% of all drug traffickers arrested at Amsterdam Schiphol airport are from the Dutch Caribbean. In 2003, the Dutch started a 100% control enforced by Dutch customs and immigration of all flights originating from Curacao, Aruba and Suriname at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. In 2003, approximately 21,000 people tried to smuggle drugs to the Netherlands by air, but this total significantly declined to 3-5 per flight after the 100% controls started. The U.S. government, according to Wikileaks, criticized the 100% control measure in 2003, because the traffickers should be stopped at the port of departure. Also, many of the arrested drug traffickers were not incarcerated, but sent home with a fine. Lack of cooperation by the Netherlands Antilles government justifies our decision, Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner stated in a response in 2003. Interestingly, Minister Donner back in the current Dutch Government Cabinet as Minister for Kingdom Affairs. Eventually, Curacao instituted a similar 100% control at Hato International Airport to prevent drug traffickers from smuggling drugs to the Netherlands. The Dutch expect to reach the milestone of having "welcomed" 15,000 smugglers later this year, since the start of the program in 2003. Approximately 900 persons appear before a judge on a yearly basis. (Various media)

## **St. Maarten – American Airlines Will Discontinue Puerto Rico Flights**

American Eagle will discontinue all services between San Juan, Puerto Rico and St. Maarten effective April 5. The American Eagle decision is reportedly based on a lack of local government financial support for the daily service to Puerto Rico. (Various media)

## **Aruba – Oil Spill at Valero Refinery**

An undisclosed quantity of oil leaked into the sea and on land at the San Antonio-based Valero refinery in Aruba, last Friday, after a storage tank and several pipes ruptured, according to an Aruban Coastguard official. Valero officials reportedly did not inform the competent authorities concerning the spill. (Amigoe)

## **Curacao – Trade Mission to Brazil**

Curacao Economic Affairs Minister Nasser Hakim leads a trade mission consisting of government and business representatives which leaves for Brazil, today. The trade mission will

return on February 12, while Minister Hakim will continue for a visit to Argentina. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

### **Caribbean – New Species Discovered**

Things are not always what they seem when it comes to fish—something scientists at the Smithsonian Institution and the Ocean Science Foundation are finding out. Using modern genetic analysis, combined with traditional examination of morphology, the scientists discovered that what were once thought to be three species of blenny in the genus *Starksia* are actually 10 distinct species. Further investigation revealed that the team was dealing with many species new to science, including the new *Starksia* blennies. *Starksia* blennies, small (less than 2 inches) fish with elongated bodies, generally native to shallow to moderately deep rock and coral reefs. The team's findings were published in the scientific journal *ZooKeys*, Feb. 3. (Antilles Post)

### **Aruba - Valero Refinery Still Shut For Unplanned Repairs**

San Antonio-based Valero Energy Corp.'s oil refinery on Aruba was shut Friday when the collapse of a 20,300-barrel freshwater storage tank knocked down a concrete barrier and broke several pipes carrying petroleum products, company spokesman Bill Day said on Monday. The incident occurred at around 9 p.m. local time; there was no explosion or fire at the refinery and there were no injuries, Day said in an e-mailed statement.

"The petroleum products from the pipes that spilled were quickly contained and are being cleaned up. No offsite environmental impacts are expected from this incident," he added. The refinery remains shut while repairs are being completed. There isn't a specific timeline for restart at this time, but this isn't expected to be a lengthy outage.

"The refinery will restart as soon as repairs are complete and the refinery can be operated safely and reliably," Day said.

The Aruba refinery is able to process up to 235,000 barrels of crude oil a day and just recently returned to planned processing rates after shutting down in 2009 because of poor refining economics. (Various media)

### **Aruba – Government Signs Agreement With University of Central Florida**

The University of Aruba Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies (FHTMS) started a 2-year Bachelor Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) in cooperation with the University of Central Florida (UCF) in 2005. In 2006, a 3-year Bachelor International Tourism Management was added. Now the government and UCF have signed an agreement to develop an Aruba Tourism Master Plan, according to Aruba Tourism Minister Otmar Oduber. (Various media)

### **Curacao - U.S. Consulate General to Co-Sponsor Urban Dance Collective Energy Street Festival**

The United States Consulate General Curacao is proud to take advantage of a unique opportunity to co-sponsor the visit of Niles Ford and two colleagues of New York-based Urban Dance Collective (UDC) who will participate at the Energy Street Festival later this month. In the U.S., February is known as Black History Month.

The Urban Dance Collective will help bring to Curacao the proud tradition of Black History Month, which has long been celebrated to remember events in the history of the African diaspora. Since 1976, Black History Month has been celebrated annually with the goal of

educating the American people about African-Americans' cultural backgrounds and reputable achievements.

The visit of these accomplished dance professionals fits into this theme and will benefit the dance community as well as delight audiences of cultural events. UDC will provide dance clinics for the youth and a train-the-trainer program for teachers and educators. Also, UDC will present various events in the historical UNESCO World Heritage downtown area of Willemstad, Curacao, and other locations on the island together with local performers.

The programs will take place in cooperation with Kas di Kultura, Archimedium, Prins Bernhard Culture Fund, Academy Hotel, Curacao Tourism Board, Penha, Freeport Jewelers, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Downtown Management Organization, Teatro Luna Blou, and La Tentashon, February 13-26, 2011.

UDC is a dance company working in more than one dimension. They deal with social issues of the day through visual art, spoken word, and music. Like other artists they communicate the psychological effects of social issues — poverty, war, sexual-orientation, sexism, and religion— through physical movement.

UDC works with dancers and choreographers from other dance companies, getting a chance to share ideas artistically and to witness other view points. UDC's choreography aesthetic is a hybrid of many techniques including ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, club dancing, and pedestrian movement.

The U.S. Consulate General is pleased to co-sponsor these events as they are a great opportunity to promote U.S. values, and foster greater tolerance and respect for diversity and cultural differences. Also, the Energy Street Festival supports local dance and cultural institutions that serve as positive youth role models.

Please visit <http://www.nilesfordudc.info/home> for more information about UDC. (Various media)

### **Curacao\Aruba – Banking on a Venezuelan Gas Pipeline is an Illusion**

Spanish conglomerate Repsol S.A. announced that the Perla 1X well off the Venezuela coast was the fifth largest hydrocarbon discovery in 2009. Now this may sound like quite a bit, but Venezuelan production has been declining to the point that the country has started to import natural gas.

Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) officials said in 2006, that between 2007 and 2015, the distribution of gas through pipelines would reach 3.2 million families in 23 states and the Venezuelan District Capital. Late last year, Venezuelan state-owned oil company PdVSA announced a reboot of the gasification plan. In 2011, not even 1% of the targeted households are connected to the gas pipeline system.

Venezuela still has a large potential for producing natural gas and, from time to time, has talked of developing LNG facilities to export some of this. It is admirable that Curacao and Aruba are looking into alternative energy resources, but counting on the Venezuelan gas pipeline plans is an illusion, an undisclosed Antillaans Dagblad source said.

### **Aruba – University of Aruba Starts National Drugs Problem Research**

In an effort to allocate resources and formulate a national drug policy, the Aruba government has asked the University of Aruba to start a national research project that quantifies Aruba's drug problem; the latest research dates back to 1997. The Aruba Health Ministry hopes the new research will provide useful insights into all aspects of drugs – from use prevention to treatment and from family support to the development of a new national policy. (Amigoe

## **Curacao – Carnival in Curacao**

The San Francisco edition of the website <http://www.examiner.com> featured an article concerning Carnival in Curacao. Carnival Season is in full swing around the world. In Curaçao, Carnival celebrations began in January and continue into March with a variety of activities for the whole family. Located in the Dutch Antilles, Curaçao combines Dutch, Creole, and Caribbean influences.

In the past, wealthy land-owners had their own fancy-dress balls while the other people had their own parties and celebrations. Today, Carnival is celebrated by everyone in Curaçao, with parties and dancing in the streets, called jump-ups, parades and lots of music. There are nearly fifty nationalities that are represented in Curaçao today. Tumba, the national music, unifies Carnival and can be heard throughout the island. Beauty pageants, public and private parties, and various street parades are some of the activities during Carnival.

Continue reading on Examiner.com: Carnival Celebrations in Curaçao - San Francisco romance travel | Examiner.com <http://www.examiner.com/romance-travel-in-san-francisco/carnival-celebrations-cura-ao#ixzz1DSfMe534> (Antilles Post)

## **Dutch Caribbean – Dutch Deploy Navy Ship Hr.Ms. Rotterdam**

The Dutch Navy Amphibious Landing Platform Dock Hr.Ms. Rotterdam arrives in Curacao for a Caribbean tour, tomorrow. The ship has a Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) team from the U.S. Coast Guard aboard for counter-drug missions. The frigate is also equipped with a Westland Lynx helicopter. The ship is operated by a crew of 124, including 13 officers. Also, accommodation is provided for a fully equipped marine battalion or up to 613 troops. (Various media)

## **Aruba – Bally Technologies Signs Aruba Gaming Contract**

Las Vegas-based Bally Technologies, Inc., a leader in slots, video machines, casino-management, and networked and server-based systems for the global gaming industry, today announced a new contract with the Palm Beach Casino in Palm Beach, Aruba, for a suite of Bally Systems solutions. This agreement further cements Bally's dominance of the systems market in the Caribbean, where the Company has 82% market share in Puerto Rico, more than 83% of the Aruba market, and 100% of the casinos in the Bahamas and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Aruba Post)

## **Curacao/St. Maarten – TIEA With Nordic Countries Pending**

The Curacao and St. Maarten Parliaments will reportedly discuss a possible Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Nordic (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland) countries. The TIEA negotiations with the Nordic countries are part of a Kingdom agreement, according to Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal. TIEAs regulate a framework under which nations will exchange information on tax matters in order to prevent tax fraud, financing of terrorism and money laundering. (Various media)

## **Aruba – Is The Dutch Navy Leaving Aruba?**

The Dutch government is contemplating closing down the Savaneta Marine Barracks in Aruba, in its latest round of defense budget cuts. The Dutch government apparently

wants to center its Caribbean mission in Curacao. The Aruban government hopes the Dutch will stay. The Dutch Naval presence creates stability, legal security, and various types of important economic activities, Aruba MP Andy Lee said. (Various media)

### **Aruba – Valero Tax Deal Results in 2010 Tax Revenue Increase**

The Aruba Central Bank reported in its December monthly bulletin that in 2010, the total tax revenue increased by US \$80 million (+15.2%) which is related to a tax settlement with San Antonio-based Valero oil refinery which runs refinery operations on Aruba. Under the terms of the May 2010 settlement, Valero pays the Aruba government US\$112 million and makes a minimum tax payment of \$10 million per year. The December 2010 consumer price index registered 0.7% deflation compared to the same month in 2009. The 12-month average inflation rate, an indicator of price movements over the longer term, was 2.1% in December 2010 compared to 2.1% in 2009. For more information: <http://www.cbaruba.org/cba/readBlob.do?id=1754>. (Various media)

### **Kingdom – Dutch Ambassador to Venezuela Prepares for Chavez Meeting**

Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador in Venezuela Hans van Vloten Dissevelt met with Curacao PM Gerrit Schotte during his recent visit. The two dignitaries discussed various topics related to Schotte's upcoming visit to Venezuela and other topics of common interest. Also, Ambassador Van Vloten Dissevelt visited the Dutch Naval Base where he met with Brigadier General Dick Swijgman. (Various media)

### **St. Maarten - Missing Amcit Brous' Brother Returns to Gather More Information**

Buzzy Brous, brother of missing American Robert Brous, says he is planning to return to St. Maarten soon. Robert Brous went missing in January last year, together with the rented blue BMW he was driving during his vacation at La Samanna Hotel. Buzzy told The Daily Herald, "Since the articles came out in your paper I have had a couple of calls from people who would like to give me information. I do not know what they can tell me, but they obviously have my number from the posters that I gave out last year. "I think that I will combine this trip to find out what they know with handing out a lot more posters, particularly at some of the crack houses that people tell me about. I know this is a little bit dangerous, but I think this is our best hope to get proper information as to what happened to my brother." (Daily Herald)

### **Kingdom – Dutch MPs Call For Intervention in St. Maarten**

St. Maarten's budget deficit is not only a financial problem, but also a governmental management issue, and that is why the Kingdom Government should intervene, Dutch Senator André Bosman said. Kingdom Charter Article 43(2) provides tools for the Kingdom to steer St. Maarten towards concrete solutions in the areas of human rights, rule of law, and good governance. Dutch Kingdom Relations Minister Donner stated he would intervene, if necessary. (Various media)

## **Bonaire – 230.000 Cruise Tourists Annually**

Within three years, cruise tourist visitors to Bonaire grew from 50.000 to 230.000 annually, Bonaire Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe said. Bonaire will participate at the March 2011 Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami, but does not have the ambition to grow, according to Tjin Asjoe. Cruise Shipping Miami is the world's most important and largest annual meeting for the cruise industry. For over 26 years, CSM has brought together top industry suppliers, quality cruise line buyers, and decision makers from around the world for three days of exhibition and a four-day conference. (Amigoe)

## **ST. MAARTEN**

### ***Crime February 4 – 10***

On February 4, a man was robbed at the entrance of Mullet Bay Beach. The victim was also shot and injured. On February 6, a male pedestrian in Sucker Garden was robbed by two men (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time).

---

*“The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Dutch Caribbean press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein.”*