

# News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending September 25, 2010

## St. Maarten – NA Wins Elections, but UP, DP Coalition Looms

The National Alliance (NA) has won seven of the 15 available seats in the parliament elections for the new semi-autonomous St. Maarten within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, last Friday. The new United People Party (UP) garnered six seats and the Democratic Party (DP) won the final two seats. UP and DP have signed a preliminary government accord on Saturday, leaving the election winner NA out of the mix. The NA party (William Marlin), received a total of 6,273 votes; UP (Theo Heyliger), received 4,936 votes; DP (Sarah Wescot-Williams) received 2,340 votes. Nearly 70% of the 19,600 voters turned out for the elections. The result should be ratified by the end of this week.

There are no major ideological differences between the parties, though the UP favors adopting the U.S. dollar while the NA wants to continue using a new regional currency. The new entity is gaining domestic political autonomy with the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on 10-10-10, although the Dutch Queen Beatrix remains head of state and the Kingdom of the Netherlands will retain responsibility for defense, foreign affairs, some areas of judicial oversight (such as the Supreme Court), and "Kingdom matters" described in charter Article 43(2) including human rights, rule of law, and good governance.

The new semi-autonomous Curacao will share some government functions, such as a common police force, central bank and the Supreme Court, with St. Maarten. Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire will become overseas Dutch municipalities.

St. Maarten has about 40,000 citizens on its 13 square mile (34 square kilometer) territory, the southern third of an island shared with French-ruled St. Martin. It is the smallest land mass in the world to be divided between two sovereign nations.

Many key details of the new governments for St. Maarten and Curacao remain to be decided, including what sort of currency they will use and how their tax systems will be structured. The island was sighted and named by Columbus in 1493, though the explorer never landed there. The Dutch and French agreed to divide control of the island in 1648, but often clashed over where the border should be until a final pact in 1817.

The new members of parliament are:

### **NA**

William **Marlin**

Frans **Richardson**

Patrick **Illidge**

Lloyd **Richardson**

George **Pantophlet**

Louie **Laveist**

Hyacinth **Richardson**

### **UP**

Theo **Heyliger**

Gracita **Arrindell**

Silvia **Meyers-Olivacce**

Romain **Laville**

Jules James  
Rhoda Arrindell  
DP  
Sarah Wescot-Williams  
Leroy de Weever

### **Bonaire – Government Crisis; MP Nicolaas Withdraws Coalition Support**

Independent MP Andy Nicolaas has withdrawn his support from the PDB/Nicolaas Island Government coalition. Nicolaas reportedly disagrees with Democratic Party Bonaire (PDB) leader Jopie Abraham concerning a pending referendum and the process to incorporate Bonaire into the Dutch constellation, as an overseas municipality. Bonaire's Constitutional referendum was postponed in August, by the Nicolaas/PDB Island Council, until further notice. Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba, the so-called BES islands, have signed the Netherlands Antilles dismantling agreement at the Round Table Conference earlier this month and decided to join the continental Netherlands as public entities, even though the current Bonaire Island government has criticized the process and the Dutch influence. They believe that Bonaire must obtain the same rights as a current municipality of the Netherlands and wanted the people to decide their future in a referendum.

Anthony Nicolaas and his former party UPB, led by Ramonsito Booi are now discussing a new coalition agreement. Nicolaas left UPB at the end of May 2009, but kept his seat in parliament as an independent member. (Various media)

### **Aruba – Valero CEO: Restart Decision by January 2011**

San Antonio-based Valero Energy Corp will decide in late December or January whether to restart its shuttered Aruba refinery, Chief Executive Bill Klesse told analysts on Thursday. The decision had been slated for mid-October. "Probably it is late December or January when we face the decision whether we start up and that will depend on our economics at the time," Klesse told investors at the Barclays Capital CEO Energy-Power Conference in New York. Valero shut the 235,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) plant in July 2009 because economic conditions rendered it unprofitable. Other options for the refinery have included a partner or sale. Company spokesman Bill Day later on Thursday attributed the delay to an overhaul of the refinery that had been extended to late December or early January from mid-October. Once completed, the company will decide whether to restart units depending on margins. "The maintenance work is being done with the intention of operating the refinery, and unless margins decline substantially, we expect that economics will support a restart," Day said. The Aruba work includes a rebuild and replacement of a main flare unit, without which the refinery cannot operate at capacity, Day said. Other electrical work and structural assessments are under way as well, he said. Valero employees in Aruba were disappointed when they heard the news about the delay. (Various media)

### **Aruba – Natalee Holloway's Mom Confronts Van Der Sloot in Jail**

The mother of Natalee Holloway entered a maximum-security prison in Lima, Peru, this week and confronted Aruban Joran van der Sloot who remains the lead suspect in the Alabama teen's 2005 disappearance on Aruba.

Beth Twitty entered Castro prison Wednesday — reportedly without registering as a visitor — with a Dutch television news crew to talk with Joran van der Sloot. "But he refused, so there was no interview," said van der Sloot's attorney, Maximo Altez. Van der Sloot is charged with killing a woman in Peru on May 30, five years to the day that Holloway, then 18, disappeared while on a high school graduation trip in Aruba. Van der Sloot has told several people he was involved in Holloway's disappearance, only to later retract the statements. U.S. law enforcement officials say he extorted \$10,000 from Twitty after offering to lead her lawyer to Holloway's body in Aruba, then used the money to fly to Lima. Twitty, others, and even Van der Sloot himself have said in various interviews that he is a liar. (Various media)

### **Antilles – PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage Meets World Leaders in NY**

Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage met with Bolivian President Evo Morales, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Sosa at the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in New York, where she is leading the Dutch Kingdom delegation. World leaders are meeting at a summit in New York (20-22 September) to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Details concerning the meetings were not revealed. (Various media)

### **Aruba – Beth Holloway Back on Aruba**

Beth Holloway was once again on Aruba this week where her daughter Natalee disappeared five years ago. This surprising trip comes after a visit to a Peruvian prison. Snap shots were taken at the airport in Aruba Friday afternoon. They show Beth Holloway and some associates leaving the airport in a white van.

Public Prosecutor Peter Blanken confirmed he has had a meeting with her.

Jossy Mansur is the editor of the *Diario* newspaper in Aruba. He says, "She came from Lima to Panama to Aruba. What she's doing here we don't know."

Thursday, Dutch media reported Beth was inside Castro Prison in Peru with Dutch journalist Peter R. de Vries to see Joran van der Sloot. Beth's attorney John Kelly confirmed the trip. He says Holloway wanted Joran to know she isn't going away.

Beth Holloway is no stranger to the island, almost everyone living there knows who she is. Mansur says it's hard to tell how the people living in Aruba will take the news that she's back on the island.

"A lot of people that have sympathies for her and a lot of people who have no sympathies for her because they consider she did a lot of damage to the name of the island. So it's a mixed feeling here," Mansur says.

The Dutch crime reporter with Holloway in Peru is working on an in-depth story on the Natalee Holloway case. De Vries has worked for years on cracking the Holloway disappearance case. He's most famous in this country for his hidden camera "confessions" where van der Sloot told various versions of Natalee's fate, all of which he later disavowed. (Various media)

### **Curacao – Isla Refinery Faces Another Possible Blackout**

The Curacao Government, Utility Company Aqualectra, and the Curacao Refinery (RdK) - the Isla Refinery government-owned holding company - are trying to find a solution for

a looming problem at the Venezuelan State-owned Oil Company PdVSA-operated Isla refinery.

The BOO (Build, Own and Operate) plant - owned by Utility Company Aquaelectra and Japanese Trading Company Marubini – is facing possible serious issues when the rental period for seven mobile air compressor units, rented from a company in Jacksonville, FL expires by the end of this month. The BOO will fail again to produce electricity, steam, desalinated water, and compressed air for the Isla Refinery and up to several megawatts for the national grid, if the rental period is not extended. (Various news)

### **Kingdom – Continued Rule of Law and Good Governance Support**

Dutch Queen Beatrix addressed Dutch Senate and House of Representatives joint session, yesterday. The Speech from the Throne sets out the main features of government policy for the coming parliamentary year. She dedicated one paragraph to Kingdom relations. “Preparations have been made to arrange new constitutional relations within the Kingdom. The Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist as an entity within the Kingdom on 10-10-10. Curaçao and St. Maarten will each obtain a semi-autonomous status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands while the island territories Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will become public entities within the Dutch Constellation. Curaçao and St. Maarten can count on continuous Dutch Government support in the rule of law and good governance areas,” the Queen stated.

The Dutch government is planning budget cuts up to US \$23 billion in the Netherlands, but the promised ongoing debt relief programs for the Netherlands Antilles and its successor entities (approximately US \$2 billion) will continue as scheduled. Other financial aid programs will gradually be diminished, as discussed with the Kingdom partners. (Various media)

### **St. Maarten – Sarah Wescot-Williams First PM new St. Maarten**

Democratic Party (DP) leader Sarah Wescot-Williams will be the first St. Maarten Prime Minister. The United People’s (UP) party and the DP signed a coalition accord on Tuesday. The two parties have a small majority (8-7) in the St. Maarten Parliament. The parties have divided the portfolios, but no candidate Ministers have been named yet.

#### **DP:**

Prime Minister, including General Affairs and Community Development  
Minister Plenipotentiary in The Hague  
Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor  
Deputy Chairman of Parliament

#### **UP:**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Deputy Minister Plenipotentiary  
Chairperson of Parliament  
Minister of VROMI and Infrastructure  
Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication  
Minister of Finance  
Minister of Justice  
Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports  
(Various media)

## **Curacao – MFK, MAN, PS Ready to Form First Curacao Government**

Gerrit Schotte (MFK), Charles Cooper (MAN), and Helmin Wiels (PS) have divided the new Ministerial portfolios and names of possible candidate Ministers were discussed.

### **MFK:**

Prime Minister, including General Affairs – Gerrit Schotte  
Minister of Finance – Sherwin Casper  
Minister of Economic Affairs and Tourism – Rudney Garmes  
Minister of Public Health, Environment and Nature – Jacintha Constancia  
Minister Plenipotentiary in The Hague –

### **PS:**

Minister of Justice – Jaime Cordoba  
Minister of Education, Culture, and Sports – Rene Rosalia  
Minister of Management, Planning and Public Services –  
Chairperson of Parliament –

### **MAN:**

Minister of Social Development and Welfare –  
Minister of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure – Charles Cooper  
(Various media)

## **Antilles – PM De Jongh-Elhage Meets World Leaders in NY**

Netherlands Antilles PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage attended the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG Summit) as a member of the Kingdom delegation, led by Dutch PM Jan Peter Balkenende.

She was present at a UN Summit event titled, "Addressing the Global Water and Sanitation Challenge: The Key to the MDGs," where USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah discussed the United States' efforts and renewed attention to ensure water security world-wide.

Later that day she participated, together with Dutch Princess Maxima, Honduran President Porfirio Lobo Sosa, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other dignitaries, in the "Inclusive Finance: A Path to the MDGs" luncheon. Also, she met with Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero and Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla Miranda. (Various media)

## **Curacao – MAN Party Leadership Nominates Cabinet Members**

MAN party leadership reportedly nominated Commissioner Charles Cooper and Member of Parliament Hensley Koeiman as Ministers in the new Schotte Administration.

Minister of Social Development and Welfare – Hensley Koeiman  
Minister of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure – Charles Cooper (Extra)

## **St. Maarten – Election Result Ratified**

The Main Voting Bureau has ratified the results of last week Friday's Parliamentary elections. National Alliance and the Democratic Party can now continue working on finalizing the coalition agreement details.

National Alliance – 7 seats  
United People – 6 seats  
Democratic Party – 2 seats (Daily Herald)

## **Curacao – PS Party Leader Wiels Nominates Candidate Ministers**

Sovereign Party leader Helmin Wiels announced on the radio that he has nominated former Governor of Curacao and Chairman of the Curacao Strong and Autonomous Foundation Elmer Wilsoe for Justice Minister. Rene Rosalia remains the only candidate for Education, Culture, and Sports Minister. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Missing U.S. Vice Consul Hogan Case Still Open**

U.S. Vice Consul James Hogan went missing a year-to-date. There is no news to report, but the case is still open according to Public Prosecutor Giselle Veen-Jonkhout. (Extra)

## **Curacao – Chambers of Commerce Miami and Curacao Sign MOU**

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and the Curacao Chamber of Commerce have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the goal to improve business, investments, and stimulate joint ventures between companies. The MOU was signed during a “10-10-10 Curacao: The dawn of a new day in International opportunities” seminar in Miami. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

## **Bonaire –New Referendum Date December 17**

Bonaire’s Constitutional referendum is now reportedly scheduled for December 17, 2010. Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba, the so-called BES islands will to join the continental Netherlands as public entities on 10-10-10, but the current Bonaire Island government has criticized the process and the Dutch influence. They believe Bonaire must obtain the same rights as a current municipality of the Netherlands and want the people to decide their future in a referendum. The referendum question is: “I agree with the negotiation result concerning the future constitutional structure of Bonaire,” to be answered “yes” or “no.” (Various media)

## **Antilles – PM de Jongh-Elhage Meets World Leaders at UN Summit**

Netherlands Antilles PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage was a speaker and panelist at the „Women as a Critical Force in Democratic Governance” event organized by the Community of Democracies and the Council of Women World Leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. She participated as a panelist together with the presidents of Liberia, Lithuania, Finland, and Kyrgyzstan. Also, Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen and PM de Jongh-Elhage met with Jamaican Foreign Minister Kenneth Baugh. During both events she spoke about the current constitutional changes in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. (Various media)

*Speech Netherlands Antilles Prime Minister Emily S. de Jongh-Elhage*

*It is for me a great honor to be a part of this distinguished sisterhood. As the last Prime Minister of the Country the Netherlands Antilles, I have been called upon to fulfill the historic role to share with the world the outcome of a major constitutional restructuring process in our country.*

*The Netherlands Antilles is a five-island country located in the Caribbean Sea. In less than a month's time, on the 10th of October of this year, the Netherlands Antilles as a Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will cease to exist. As of that date two new Countries will be added to the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Curaçao and St. Maarten. The remaining three islands of the Netherlands Antilles, namely Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, will become public entities of the Netherlands.*

*Unlike in other parts of the world, the disintegration of the Netherlands Antilles did not go accompanied by armed conflict. In our country the whole constitutional reform process has been based on the democratic principles of legitimacy, accountability, transparency, the rule of law and the will of the people*

*Democracy has thrived in the Netherlands Antilles in part due to the strong democratic tradition that we have inherited from our mother country the Netherlands. For another part due to the favorable social and economic situation of the islands as a result of the financial support provided by the Netherlands and the European Union.*

*Yesterday, we concluded a successful High-Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. The importance of these goals for the improvement of the living standards of our sisters and brothers in the developing world cannot be questioned. If, on the basis of the current indicators of the MDGs, we do an analysis of the situation in the Netherlands Antilles, then we have to conclude that the islands are far ahead in the realization of the goals.*

*This of course represents a tremendous achievement of which we are very proud. However, specifically in the area of public health the Netherlands Antilles is facing a number of serious challenges. Chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity form a serious danger not only for the health of our nation, but also seriously threaten the long-term existence of our health care system. Although there already is a public private partnership to address the issue of chronic diseases, these and other concerns will be highlighted in the forthcoming Netherlands Antilles' MDG-Report. The constitutions of the two new Countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands reflect the vision to create sustainable democratic societies in which the well-being and safety of citizens is the first priority. The principles of non-discrimination and equality are enshrined in the constitutions of Curaçao and St. Maarten, guarantee women's right to fully contribute to the development of the new Countries. Already women's position in the Netherlands Antilles is solid on account of the equal access of boys and girls to education, their increasing political participation and the absence of income disparities with men.*

*With five female Prime Ministers during the past 35 years, the Netherlands Antilles has shown an outstanding record in the area of female political leadership. At present 4 of the 7 ministers of my Cabinet are women: the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Health and Education, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister.*

*Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done. We still have not achieved the 30% target of female parliamentarians as mandated by the Beijing Platform for Action. However, in view of the excellent performance of girls and young women in our educational system, I have no doubt that it is only a matter of time before women will be able to participate equally in the democratic governance of the new Countries of the Kingdom.*

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*"The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein."*