

News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending October 9, 2010

Curacao - Chinese smugglers sentenced

Three Chinese suspects stood on trial on October 1 for their involvement in an attempt to enter Curaçao with forged permits. The two men and one woman each received a four-month prison sentence for the fact that they had tried to enter Curaçao from Bonaire in July 2010 by using Antillean national identification cards from fellow compatriots. Principal suspect Junhua Wu (34) had arranged for the trio to travel from Hong Kong to Amsterdam, and onward to Bonaire and Curaçao, using temporary residence permits. Earlier in Bonaire, another three Chinese nationals had been deported by local authorities before the Public Prosecutor's Office had become aware of the smuggling operation (Amigoe, Extra).

Curacao - Six Dutch military arrested for drugs

Six Dutch military personnel were arrested last week on drug charges. A Royal Dutch Navy spokesperson said that the suspects have been questioned, but would not release any additional information in the interest of the ongoing investigation (Antilliaans Dagblad).

Curacao - Justice Authorities alleged to have withheld information in Sudduth case

A local newspaper reported that Antillean justice authorities allegedly withheld information in the Stephen Sudduth child pornography case, causing Sudduth to leave Curaçao in a hurry. Initially, local authorities had allegedly informed the press that Sudduth had not committed any crimes on the island. During the subsequent investigation in the United States, evidence showed that Sudduth had also broken the law "while babysitting in Curaçao." The daily further claims that missing U.S. Vice Consul James Hogan had written a letter of recommendation, giving Sudduth the option of working at the International School of Curaçao. The newspaper also alleges that there is a strong suspicion that the FBI and Hogan were aware that Sudduth's former wife had informed authorities that Sudduth was a pedophile and that it cannot be excluded that a "high U.S. official in Curaçao was his accomplice." The article ends by saying that the FBI knew this official visited prostitution centers in Curaçao.

Another article in the same newspaper describes how FBI agents conduct investigations in Curaçao without permission from the Minister of Justice or Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO). The article further states that the FBI collected and withheld information from the PPO, blames the PAR-led government for these activities, but provides no evidence for its allegations (Vigilante).

Curacao - Criminal Procedures Code on Parliament agenda

At the request of the PAR faction, the Antillean Parliament will discuss the draft amendment of the Criminal Procedures Code, which includes the draft law Extraordinary

Investigative Powers (BOB), on Thursday. Initially, a majority had chosen to leave the discussion of the draft law up to the new parliaments of the new autonomous entities Curaçao and St. Maarten. However, according to PAR leader Glenn Sulvaran, there are new developments that mean the discussion must take place before October 10, referring to warnings of the consequences of not approving the BOB law by Minister of Justice Magali Jacoba (PAR), Minister of Finance Ersilia de Lannooy (PNP) and the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles. Reference was made to the fact that the draft law must be approved before October 4 if the Antilles still wishes to comply with the guidelines of the Treaty of Palermo which contains regulations related to transnational crime (Daily Herald).

St. Maarten - Island Council members to be sworn in today

The new St. Maarten Island Council will be sworn in today, Tuesday. The 15 members of St. Maarten's last Island Council, who will become members of the new autonomous entity St. Maarten's first Parliament, will take the oath of office during this morning's ceremony (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time).

Curacao - Missing vice consul James Hogan allegedly seen in Dominican Republic

Local newspaper *Vigilante* claims that a Dominican prostitute, who has worked in Curaçao at an unnamed prostitution center, and other witnesses have seen missing U.S. vice consul James Hogan in the Dominican Republic. Allegedly, Hogan lives with his girlfriend in the city of Santiago. The newspaper also links Hogan with former International School of Curaçao teacher Stephen Sudduth, who was arrested last year in the U.S. on child pornography charges. The article further suggests that Hogan and Sudduth worked together in filming minors in Curaçao (*Vigilante*).

Curacao - Curaçao spaceport to be realized

Space Experience Curaçao (SXC) and U.S.-owned company Xcor Aerospace have signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday for the lease of a Lynx Mark II aircraft, to be used for manned flights into space by SXC from Hato International Airport. Ben Droste of SXC said that "space tourism is coming to Curaçao, it is no longer a dream... This is about the first operational spaceliner outside of the United States." SXC is the first commercial client for Xcor. The first flight is expected to take off in January 2014 (*Antilliaans Dagblad, Extra*).

St. Maarten - Minister candidates to be submitted today

The names of the seven candidates for the first ministers of autonomous entity St. Maarten will be submitted by the United People's Party (UP)/Democratic Party (DP) coalition to Governor General Eugene Holiday today. DP leader and presumed new Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams said that the names of the candidates will not be revealed until they have passed the national security screening. She did say that the two ministers her party would propose would come from among its candidates who took part in the Island Council elections of September 17. UP leader Theo Heyliger also declined to reveal any names, although sources said that he had approached current GONA Minister of Constitutional Affairs Roland Duncan for the post of Minister of Justice. The

new St. Maarten Parliament and Council of Ministers are to be sworn in on Sunday, October 10 (Daily Herald, Antilliaans Dagblad).

St. Maarten - Drugs found in trafficker's juice box

Customs officers arrested a Jamaican man trying to smuggle marijuana into Princess Juliana International Airport in juice boxes last Saturday. The drugs had been packed in watertight wrappings and stuffed in boxes of "Swizzle Cherry Ice Fruit" drink. The boxes had been bundled together in a case. Swizzle juices are a product of Serge Island Dairies, a manufacturing company in Jamaica (Daily Herald).

Bonaire - Fair Pricing Code set up in Bonaire

In preparation of the introduction of the U.S. dollar as monetary unit in the BES-islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) on January 1, 2011, the "Fair Pricing Code" will be introduced in Bonaire and the "Fair Pricing Committee Bonaire" formed as supervisory organization. The Fair Pricing Code is already in effect, with the obligation to post prices both in dollars and Netherlands Antilles guilders. This period ends on July 31, 2011. The pricing code serves to discourage improper price increases; a similar code was used in European countries during the introduction of the euro in 2002.

Participating companies promise to display double pricing correctly (by using the official exchange rate). In exchange, they may carry the Fair Price logo. If a company does not stand by the concluded agreements, it will lose the right to carry this logo and this will be published in the local press (Daily Herald).

Curacao - New currency for Curaçao, St. Maarten in 2012

The new currency for Curaçao and St. Maarten, the Caribbean guilder, will be introduced in 2012. Until then, the current Netherlands Antilles guilder will remain the legal tender (Daily Herald).

St. Maarten - Public prosecutor Develing resigns over hit-and-run

Public prosecutor Jan Bart Develing (50) informed the Court yesterday he had tendered his resignation in connection with his involvement in a hit-and-run traffic accident. He was sentenced to a fine. The discredited prosecutor admitted that he had been guilty of a case of hit-and-run on August 28. He said he had drunk three beers at a bar, after which he left the bar for home. On his way home, his attempt to overtake a car resulted in a collision. Develing told the court he thought the incident was a set-up, and he was the victim of an attempted robbery. He therefore decided to drive home as fast as he could and call the police from there. However, he was stopped by several police cars that were in the vicinity of the scene of the incident, conducting traffic controls. Despite the prosecutor's fears there were no robbers in the car, but a married couple. Develing told the judge that his behavior had "damaged and discredited" the Public Prosecutor's Office (Daily Herald).

Curacao - Unfavorable FATF evaluation possible after failure to approve draft amendment Criminal Procedures Code

The draft amendment of the Criminal Procedures Code, which includes the draft law Extraordinary Investigative Powers (BOB), was not discussed by Parliament yesterday because there was no quorum. The draft amendment had been put on the agenda by the PAR faction because of fears that postponement would lead to non-compliance with the guidelines of the Treaty of Palermo which contains regulations related to transnational crime. The possibility now exists that the Antilles will be blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). FATF reports are public and used by international financial institutions to determine a country's level of investment risk (Antilliaans Dagblad, Amigoe, Extra).

Curacao - Incumbent PM Schotte reports successful forming of coalition

Soon-to-be PM of Curaçao, Gerrit Schotte submitted his formation report to Governor General Frits Goedgedrag yesterday. Schotte announced that the coalition is ready and presented the names of the new ministers:

PM and General Affairs – Gerrit Schotte (MFK)
Minister of Finance – George Jamaloodin (MFK)
Minister of Economic Development – Nasser Hakim (MFK)
Minister of Public Health, Environment and Nature – Jacinta Constanca (MFK)
Minister of Justice – Elmer Wilsoe (Sovereign Party)
Minister of Management, Planning and Service – Norman Girigorie (Sovereign Party)
Minister of Education, Culture and Sports – René Rosalia (Sovereign Party)
Minister of Social Development and Welfare – Hensley Koeiman (MAN)
Minister of Traffic and Transportation – Charles Cooper (MAN)
Chairman of Parliament – Ivar Asjes (Sovereign Party)
Vice Chairman of Parliament – Amerigo Thodé (MFK)
Plenipotentiary Minister in The Hague – Sheldry Osepa (MFK)
(Antilliaans Dagblad, Extra, Amigoe, La Prensa).

St. Maarten - Names of ministers submitted for vetting

The names of the new ministers of St. Maarten have been submitted for vetting. Official approval is expected to be received tomorrow, Saturday. While the names were announced, their respective positions were not, with the exception of the PM and Minister of Justice. The ministers are:

PM and General Affairs – Sarah Wescot-Williams (DP)
Minister of Justice – Roland Duncan (UP)
Theo Heyliger (UP)
Hiro Shigemoto (UP)
Franklin Myers (UP)
Maria Buncamper-Molanus (DP)
Rhoda Arrindell (UP)
(St. Maarten Island Time).

Curacao - New name for Shipping and Maritime Affairs Directorate

The Shipping and Maritime Affairs Directorate has been renamed Maritime Authority of Curaçao (MAC), announced Island Commissioner for Infrastructure, Traffic and Telecommunications Charles Cooper (MAN). MAC keeps records of all ships registered in the Netherlands Antilles (Antilliaans Dagblad).

CURAÇAO

Crime October 1 – 7

On October 2, a Chinese minimarket was robbed in Gosie. The owner was beaten by the suspects. The following day, a family returning home in Brievengat was robbed by two masked men. The male victim was beaten (Amigoe, Extra).

ARUBA

Crime October 1 – 7

On October 2, a tourist couple was robbed by two men in Oranjestad. The same evening, a taxi driver in Oranjestad was robbed by two men who pretended to be clients (Diario Aruba).

ST. MAARTEN

Crime October 1 – 7

On October 1, two men attempted to rob a bar in Philipsburg. When one of the suspects took a gold chain from a client, the latter pulled a firearm and shot and injured the suspect. The second suspect then fled the area (Daily Herald).

“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.”