

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION (2012)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 18

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS three unarmed persons – Shemroy Bouyea of Wismar Housing Scheme, Ivan Lewis of Wismar Housing Scheme and Ron Somerset of Amelia’s Ward – were shot and killed by Police at Mc Kenzie, Linden during a peaceful protest on Wednesday, 18th July, 2012 in which minimum force was not applied by the Police to disperse the crowd but, rather, lethal fire was opened causing death and injury to several persons;

AND WHEREAS it seems evident that, contrary to conventional police training doctrine, with particular reference to the control of crowds, the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., is reported by the Government Information Agency on 23rd July, 2012 to have stated:

“tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons could have been used to restore order, however, live rounds is a deadly response that is not catered for nowhere (sic) in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), in a situation such as this...”

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people's elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and in which Ministers of the Government, in particular, have a dual obligation to both direct the executive arms of the state and to account to their electors for their governance and in which the National Assembly requires that every Minister discharges his or her obligation to the nation, be held accountable and accepts responsibility for the performance and behaviour of his or her Ministry;

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Clement Rohee, M.P., is Minister of Home Affairs and is authorised under the Police Act, Chapter 16:01, to issue "general orders and directions" to the Commissioner of Police for the command and superintendence of the Guyana Police Force;

AND WHEREAS if the Police Force performs in a manner so egregiously incompetent that the Administration is likely to be brought into ridicule or contempt, the Minister in accordance with the doctrine of ministerial responsibility that not only binds the Minister to the Administration's policies but, also binds the Administration to the Minister's performance, thereby requires that he must resign if his conduct undermines public confidence in his ability to hold high office with competence;

AND WHEREAS this country has witnessed a pattern of threats to public security in the form of the failure to stanch the spate of criminal violence – including banditry; execution; extra-judicial killings; murder; narcotics-trafficking; piracy; torture; the shooting of peaceful protesters on 6th December, 2011 and various corrupt practices in the Guyana Police Force – while, responsibility for public security rested with the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P.;

3.

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is obligated to consider the evidence of mismanagement and maladministration of any Ministry of the Government which could have been avoided or prevented by prudent administration, especially in light of the decision of the Minister of Home Affairs to act only after the shooting as expressed in a statement published in the state-owned Guyana Chronicle Newspaper dated 19th July which reads, inter alia:

“...the Minister of Home Affairs has, within the meaning of the Police Act, Chapter 16:01, issued general and specific directions to the Commissioner of Police (ag) to effect immediate changes at the command level at E&F Police Division of which Linden is an integral part.”

RESOLVED,

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of three persons and the injury to several others by the Guyana Police Force in Linden on Wednesday, 18th July, 2012 and extends sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased and sympathy to the injured persons;

FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the National Assembly censures and expresses ‘no confidence’ in the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., over his inability to discharge his responsibility for public security and calls for the immediate revocation of his appointment as a Minister of the Government and for his dismissal from office.

Passed by the National Assembly on Monday, 30th July, 2012.

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

