

THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ACT, Chap. 19:03 and
IN THE MATTER OF A COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH OF WALTER RODNEY namely:
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
DONALD RAMOTAR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA AS SEALED the 6th
day of February, Two Thousand and Fourteen (Seal No.4 of 2014)

CLOSING ARGUMENTS OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF DR WALTER RODNEY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.
 - (i) To examine the facts and circumstances immediately prior, at the time of, and subsequent to, the death of Walter Rodney in order to determine, as far as possible, who or what was responsible for the explosion resulting in the death of Dr. Walter Rodney;
 - (ii) To enquire into the cause of the explosion in which Dr. Walter Rodney died, whether it was an act of terrorism, and if so, who were the perpetrators;
 - (iii) To specifically examine the role if any, of the late Gregory Smith, Sergeant of the Guyana Defence Force, played in the death of Dr. Walter Rodney, and if so, to

inquire into who may have counselled, procured, aided and or abetted him to do so, including facilitating his departure from Guyana after Dr. Walter Rodney's death;

- (iv) To examine and report the actions and activities of the State, such as, the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana National Service, the Guyana People's Militia and those who were on command and superintendence of these agencies, to determine whether they were tasked with the surveillance of and the carrying of actions, and whether they did execute those tasks and carried out those actions against the Political Opposition, for period 1st January, 1978 to 31st December, 1980 and;
- (v) To examine, review and report on earlier investigations and inquiries done on and into the death of Dr. Walter Rodney.

BACKGROUND

- **Term of Reference (i)**

Prior to June 1980

2. In 1978 to 1980, the political struggle intensified in the form of the Civil Rebellion Campaign focused in particular on the fraudulent Constitution.
3. Joseph Hamilton was a member of the House of Israel. He directly linked the government and its top echelon to the terrorizing of the WPA. Hamilton noted that the WPA did not utilize violence, but could have become violent in retaliation. "We were terrorizing them, we were brutalizing them and we believed they might retaliate". Hamilton further noted that even in their methodology to stop the WPA meetings from being interrupted, the WPA did not use violence but rather a method of recognition of and then surrounding troublemakers. Hamilton testified that under his instructions as to the

Opposition elements, there were only two sacred cows: one, Dr. Cheddi Jagan and two, Mr. Eusi Kwayana, so any other member of the WPA, the Opposition parties could have been harmed or assaulted.”

4. Eusi Kwayana stated in his evidence that Ohene Koama was killed on November 18th, 1979. Koama was committed to a non-violent struggle against the excesses of the Burnham Dictatorship. His assassination was followed by that of Edward Dublin another WPA activist.
5. Eusi Kwayana further states that following the burning of a government building, some members of the Working People’s Alliance (WPA) were charged with arson and on 14th July 1979, made their first appearance at the Georgetown magistrate court. Walter Rodney was one so charged. The magistrate was ordered not to grant bail but did so anyway and was subsequently removed from her post.
6. The day Walter Rodney was charged there was a procession outside the Georgetown Magistrates’ Court and the procession eventually relocated to the Brickdam Police Station where a riot ensued. There was then the realisation that Father Darke a catholic priest, had been stabbed to death in broad daylight. Donald Rodney witnessed the killing of Father Darke by a man who turned out to member of the House of Israel.
7. Soon after the death of Father Darke, Donald Rodney recalled that the then Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham, addressed members of his party at a public gathering declaring that members of the WPA must “make your wills”. This statement was taken to be an open threat against the WPA and by extension Walter Rodney and his followers. The threats also influenced Donald Rodney to assist his brother, Walter Rodney, in the governing of the WPA.

The events of Friday, June 13 1980 (The day Walter Rodney died)

8. At 7:30 p.m. on Friday June 13 1980, Donald Rodney (hereinafter referred to as “Donald”) picked up his brother, Dr. Walter Rodney (hereinafter referred to as “Walter”), with his motor car PBB 2349 on Church Street outside St. Rose’s High School. Walter sat on the left side of the driver’s seat while Donald drove the vehicle to Broad Street and parked on the southern parapet east of Russell Street.
9. Donald came out of his car while Walter remained in it and he proceeded to the home of Gregory Smith, at the corner of Russell and Howes Streets. Donald arrived there between 7:35 to 7:40 pm. This was not the first time Donald met Gregory Smith (hereinafter referred to as “Smith”) as he met him on several previous occasions and he knew Smith as a Radar and Electronics Technician. Smith told Donald that he was a Sergeant in the Marine Wing of the Guyana Defence Force.
10. Donald knew Smith through Walter, whom he had approached with an offer to make walkie-talkie sets. Donald acted as a liaison between Smith and Walter, reporting on any progress Smith had in manufacturing the sets.
11. The purpose of Donald’s visit to Smith on the night of June 13 1980 was to collect one walkie-talkie set for testing. When Donald went to Smith’s home, Smith came to the door surprised and enquired as to the whereabouts of Walter to which Donald replied he was around the corner. Smith then asked Donald if he was walking or driving and whether he would test the set in the car or on foot and Donald informed him that Walter would decide.
12. Smith then went inside his home and upon his return he had an object in his hand. The object was in a brown paper bag. Smith then pointed to a knob on one side of the object by pressing the paper bag against it and the knob protruded. Smith explained that the set would have been tested at two positions and after the first test the knob was to be turned. Smith also demonstrated by turning the knob clockwise and he then made Donald repeat

the action.

13. Smith gave instructions to Donald that he and his brother Walter should walk along Russell Street and make their first stop at Princess Street where they would have carried out the first test. Smith said that they should proceed along Camp Street and be ready to have the second test opposite the Georgetown Prison. Smith particularly wanted to have a test near the Prison wall so as to observe the effect of the expanse of metal on the efficiency of the set. Smith also told Donald that Walter should hold the walkie-talkie up to his face.
14. Smith remained at home to operate the companion set which was in his possession. He repeated the instructions and added that if Walter or Donald wanted they could have gone past Princess Street but that it was important that the second test took place in Camp Street, near to the Prison wall. Smith stated that he wanted to observe whether the transmission would be interfered with by the extensive metal wall.
15. Gregory Smith further explained how the trial would run to Donald. Smith wanted to synchronise the watches that both he and Donald were wearing. The first signal was to be made at 8 p.m. and Smith wanted to make certain that if Walter and Donald received a signal, it was from him.
16. Donald Rodney set his watch at 7:50 p.m., the same time which Smith's watch carried. Smith then handed Donald the set which weighed about one to two pounds. Donald then took the package and left yard.
17. Donald started the car and relayed Smith's instructions to Walter. As they drove on to Broad Street, Donald explained that they were required to make trials at two positions, the first at Princess Street at 8 p.m., which was synchronised with Smith's and the second sometime after by the Prison.

18. Donald drove north along Adelaide Street and parked in John Street. It was not yet 8 p.m. so they waited until that time. At 8 p.m., Walter looked down at the package which he held in his lap and the signal light flashed. Walter then drove off north along John Street across Durban Street and passed the Prison. He parked the car on the western side of John Street approximately twenty yards from Hadfield Street and turned off the ignition and all lights.
19. Walter and Donald waited for a signal from the package. There was no signal. Within a minute from the time Donald parked the vehicle, Walter started saying something in reference to Smith. Donald turned slightly to look through the driver's window which was open. Donald then heard a loud noise and at the same time he felt his body being twisted against the driver's door which flew open.
20. Donald became blinded on the left side and became aware of the dashboard lights coming on. He had no feeling in either of his hands even though he instinctively raised both hands to secure his spectacles as he was getting out of the car.
21. There was an explosion on Walter's side of the car and he had been seriously injured. Donald then pushed back the driver's door with one hand and ran north along John Street to the home of Dr. Omawale on Croal Street.
22. Upon Donald's arrival he shouted at the door and it was opened by Karen De Souza whom he told of the incident and that Walter was still there and needed help. Donald Rodney went upstairs the said house where he then realized he was bleeding profusely. Karen and Andaiye left Donald in the house to visit the scene. He was left alone in the house and went into the bathroom.
23. Karen De Souza noted that the majority of the crowd surrounding the exploded car were members of the death squad. One of the death squad members called her by name and told her to leave the scene. De Souza testified that she felt that the government had "finally" killed Dr. Rodney. This was based on the adversarial posture of the WPA and

PNC, the 2 prior WPA killings and the Prime Minister's threats to 'make your wills' and 'sharper steel' etc.

24. Donald Rodney was eventually taken into the medical care of Dr. Horace Taitt.

Subsequent to the Death

25. The then Minister of Information said that a faceless, unidentified body was found. On the night of June 13th, 1980 the police invaded the house of Walter's mother in West Ruimveldt. A question arises as to why the police raided the home if Walter's body was unidentified.

26. Donald's home was entered and ransacked between the said night of June the 13th and the time he was in the hospital without him being present. He was informed that the men were police officers but they never showed any police identification.

• **Term of Reference (ii)**

27. The media reported that there was a disfigured body in the car that was unidentifiable. The stations were government controlled and radio reports said that the body was badly disfigured, that they could not recognize or identify the body and that the face was badly disfigured. The ICJ was able to confirm this by reading the radio transcripts that were available at that time.

28. Walter was identifiable as the bomb was in his lap when it was detonated and not near his face as Smith had requested. This was established by Karen De Souza, May Shepherd, Patricia Rodney and Malcolm Rodrigues, who were all able to identify Walter on sight due to the good condition of his face. The autopsy also revealed that the face was only slightly burned.

29. After the explosion, the controlled media and police maintained that Walter intended to

breach the Georgetown Prison and assist prisoners to escape. They purported that the release of the prisoners was to presumably join Walter Rodney and the WPA in acts of sabotage.

30. A leaflet entitled "To Walter" was distributed in the streets of Georgetown the day following the explosion; that is, before his body had been officially identified.

31. The Government through the issuing of various statements denied Gregory's Smith existence, including through its Chief of Staff, its highest ranking military officer. This same Chief of Staff, General Norman McLean was heard leaving a private government function 45 minutes after the explosion saying that Walter Rodney had been killed. This was before an identification of the body was made.

• **Term of Reference (iii)**

32. Donald Rodney was first introduced to Gregory Smith by his brother Walter in early 1980. Smith was building a walkie-talkie for Walter which Donald planned to collect on his behalf. On the first occasion of Donald meeting Smith, Walter informed him of his name and rank.

33. Donald met Smith on many different occasions to discuss the completion of the walkie-talkies but these discussions never took place. Smith seemed to be very discreet about the job he was required to do. The meetings between Smith and Donald were usually planned and occurred after nightfall. Only on one occasion the meeting was unplanned and occurred during the day. Smith and Donald both had contact numbers for each other however Smith never called. Donald did try to contact Smith but he never got a response.

34. Approximately two weeks before the June 13th, 1980 while Walter remained in the car, Donald picked up a walkie-talkie set from Smith for the purpose of testing. He was

informed that one unit would remain in the possession of Smith while the other would have been with him. Donald was informed that if the bulb on the unit flashed when Smith activated his unit then the two units would have been synchronised. Smith stayed at home while they drove to Sussex Street where they carried out the test. The result of the test was that the bulb flashed and he thereafter returned the unit to Smith.

- **Terms of Reference (iv)**

35. In the two years leading up to 1980, there was unrest in Guyana and two WPA members were killed. The PNC made open threats to the WPA and anyone who opposed the Government.

- **Terms of Reference (v)**

36. In 1980 an investigation into the death of Walter Rodney was carried out; Donald Rodney was convicted in February 1982 despite the obviously incomplete police investigation and equally obvious unfair prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

37. Donald Rodney appeared before the International Commission Jurists (ICJ) team in 1989, in 1995 the Guyana Government invited the ICJ to send an investigatory team to make a preliminary assessment into Walter Rodney's death, they accepted the invitation and submitted a report on its findings to the Attorney General's Office. Included in the recommendations of the Report was a recommendation that the appeal proceedings in his case pending since February 26, 1982 should be speedily brought to an end.

38. In reviewing the criminal proceedings against Donald Rodney the ICJ found that the trial did not meet the minimum standard of due process of law, and that it was clear that the presumption of innocence was not respected in his trial.

39. Donald Rodney was in fact offered a Presidential Pardon, however he declined this offer as it would not have addressed his innocence nor bring to light the matter of his conviction without proof of guilt.

EVIDENCE

- **Terms of Reference (i)**

Leslie James, Crime Chief, Senior Superintendent

Tendering of Evidence from forensic scientist Dr. Skuse

40. The report done by Dr. Skuse indicates that the deceased, Dr. Walter Rodney sat in a stationary vehicle. Dr. Skuse in his report identified that the radio in the walkie-talkie device was the same as those used by the Guyana Defence Force. The TNT explosive that was used was the same usually used for military purposes.

Karen De Souza

41. Karen De Souza, a former member of the WPA at 8.00 pm on Friday June 13th was at 45 Croal Street. Around 8.00pm she heard the sound of an explosion and very shortly after she heard knocking on the door with great urgency. Ms De Souza testified that she opened the door to Donald Rodney whose face seemed battered and blood was dripping off him. Donald said that “there had been a terrible accident”. She also testifies that Donald was clearly in great distress.

42. Karen took Donald upstairs where he told her that there had been an accident at the corner of John and Hadfield Streets where after she and Andayie immediately left to go to the scene. She said it took her two or three minutes to reach the scene and approximately eight minutes in total from the time of the explosion.

43. Karen was met by a crowd and testified that there were fifteen (15) Death Squad members. The car roof was blown off and a shape that seemed kind of boneless was in the car, the face forward. She looked inside the car and she saw a dark expanse of flesh and the head of a body pressed up against the dashboard. She recognized the back of the head as Walter Rodney.
44. Karen De Souza left the scene of the explosion because a member of the Death Squad said “Miss De Souza, please move back”. He repeated it a couple of times.
45. She went back to the damaged car and saw that the firemen were about to move the body from the car.
46. Karen testifies that when she went back to the Croal Street home Donald was still there and he was still bleeding until he was removed from the home.

Eusi Kwayana

47. Eusi Kwayna rejected suggestions that the WPA had planned to unleash bloody violence to remove the then Forbes Burnham administration from office.
48. Kwayana said the WPA had “not exhausted the means of struggle” to make it necessary to resort to violence. He said the WPA had not come to a stage where it could say it tried everything and he didn’t think that anyone in the WPA was in that state of mind. He said that violence was out of the question.
49. He argued that no one could justifiably accuse the WPA or any of its known members of being involved in any murder, break-up of meetings, or an attack on a police station or a residence of someone.

Edward Rodney

50. Mr Lawrence Edward Rodney was the older brother of Dr Walter Rodney.
51. He said that it was normal that there were searches made by the police or non-military ranks. He said that he decided to co-operate with the police because he did not want to give them any opportunity to frame him.
52. On the evening of Friday 13th, Edward was taken to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and arrested pending a charge of murder.
53. He learned of his brother's death through a radio broadcast while in jail. He heard that "the body of a negro man had been discovered in a vehicle".

Joseph Hamilton

54. Joseph Hamilton, admittedly, was a former priest in the House of Israel, a religious domination in Guyana.
55. The House of Israel would usually be summoned to break up any meetings which the PNC did not approve of. The then PNC government was the only political party that the House of Israel was affiliated with.
56. Walter Rodney and Dr. Roopnarine were arrested and granted bail on a Saturday. The Magistrates' court did not sit on a Saturday and thus crowds gathered around the court to protest the release of the two. They were not charged and thus could not be held on remand, this was in light of the protest by the crowd.
57. The Saturday that bail was granted to Walter and Roopnarine, an urgent call was made to the House of Israel headquarters by members of the leadership of the PNC. There were

pictures of Dr. Roopnarine and Rodney with walkie-talkies in their hands.

58. Mr. Hamilton indicated that he was among the members of the religious organisation that, under the directive of the PNC, would terrorise members of the WPA and use violence in attempts to break up the party's public meetings

Patricia Rodney

59. Patricia Rodney testified that Donald and Walter left for meeting with Gregory Smith. She indicated that Father Malcolm delivered news of Walter's death and that her parents told her Walter's mother had called to say they were searching their house and that Edward Rodney was arrested.

60. She testified that two (2) vans arrived with plain clothes police officers to search for arms and ammunitions.

61. This witness stated that the interaction between the police officers indicated they were already aware that Walter was dead.

62. She stated on June 14th, 1980 she saw pamphlets indicating that an unidentified man was killed in front of her house.

63. She testified that her sister, May Shepherd arrived with Walter's bloody clothes after indentify the body and that May was contacted by the police.

64. She went with Father Malcolm to the Funeral Parlor to see body and was denied access. She then went to the Police station and was told by Inspector Crandon that the body was released by the police and there was no reason she couldn't see the body. However, the Funeral Parlor still refused.

65. This witness further testified that the American Ambassador arrived to offer condolences and offered to secure visas to travel to US prior to knowledge that Walter was the unidentified man killed.

66. She testified further that on 16th June, 1980 Father Malcolm asked Crime Chief Skip Roberts about viewing the body and was advised to return at 4pm but noted he would need to see if the body could be released.

67. Patricia indicated that Inspector McCrae was in attendance when she identified Walter by face and that approximately nine (9) bodies (naked/half naked) was stacked in the refrigerator with Walter at the bottom.

68. She further testified that there was heavy police presence both in the air and on ground for the funeral.

• **Terms of Reference (ii)**

Edward Rodney

69. Edward testifies that the police were being used by the Government and was acting as an arm of the ruling party. The police were being used to break up strikes and keep people in order. He said that the police were used to intimidate and would often be present whenever a strike was taking place. He said that the uniformed branch of the police will not physically attack anyone unless they refused to do what the police had ordered.

70. Edward Rodney made reference to the House of Israel who he described as a hierarchy comprised of Deacons and Elders. He said he knew them by their uniform which was red, green and black which were also the colours of the PNC government. He would know them if the term “Brother” or “Shalom” being used. He also referred to them as local

bullies.

71. Rodney said that if there were any political matters where there was an opposition to the Government of that time, the House of Israel would be present. He described them as violent people and a type of “hit squad” used by the PNC. He said on many occasions, the House of Israel would be used to break up WPA meetings.

72. He said that the House of Israel members would usually be transported to the site in vehicles to intimidate members. He said that they would cut the wires to the loud speaking equipment, throw bricks, or lash out with sticks and start beating the persons.

Reverend Reuben Gilbert

73. Rev. Gilbert was a supporter of the WPA but he was not a member. He recalls attending several meetings and often police and House of Israel members would try to stop the meetings. He recalls a specific incident at the Bourda green where tear gas was used by the police.

74. He recalls that often there would be a “beating out” where the House of Israel members would have sticks and they would beat people listening to Walter. He said you would know members of the House of Israel by their uniform which was red, green and black colours.

75. Rev Gilbert recalled that the Prime Minister said “let them make their wills and the least”, “it is the lion and the gladiator” and “I offer them no less a better death than Judas Iscariot”. He referred to these as open threats made by the PNC.

76. Rev Gilbert recalled that Walter was charged with arson and he would often gather with the crowds outside of the court. Rev Gilbert testifies that on one occasion, he was beaten by members of the House of Israel and the police which resulted in two broken ribs.

77. Rev Gilbert testified that one night while he was heading home, his neighbour, James Daniels, who was a member of the PNC, stopped him and said that they were going to try to kill him that same night. The purported plan was to kill Rev Gilbert and then claim that he had a gun in his possession.
78. Gilbert said he thought about the issue and then asked his brother, who was also a member of the PNC to stay at his home for the night. He said he did not inform him of the reasons, but then drove his car to the University of Guyana Campus. Upon his return home the following morning, Gilbert said he was informed by this brother that "some people from the YSM came here for you". The persons who were going to kill him were members of the YSM who were purportedly the hit squad for the PNC. This incident happened approximately three months before the death of Walter.
79. He recalled the night of Friday 13th 1980. He heard on the radio that an unidentified man was blown up but he knew it was Walter.
80. Gilbert said that he had experienced an "unexplainable" feeling that his friend Dr Walter Rodney would have soon met his demise, some three days before he was actually killed. According to Gilbert, the atmosphere at the time was tainted with lingering fear. Citizens were fearful to even mention a simple word against the ruling Government. It had become so severe that Dr Rodney himself had begun expressing some level of anxiety as he was very concerned about the safety and survival of his wife Patricia and their three children.

Karen De Souza

81. Ms De Souza recalls that on several occasions, meetings of the WPA would be broken up by men in police officers in uniform. The men would usually be armed with batons. She recalls that she was arrested on many occasions because she was affiliated with the WPA.

82. Ms. De Souza says that her initial view was that Walter Rodney was “finally” killed by the Government. She said that two party members had been killed before Walter was killed. She also made reference to the Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham, making threats about “ make your wills”.

83. Ms. De Souza recalls at that time the media was controlled by the state and they did not tend to report on Government activities.

• **Terms of Reference (iii)**

Donald Rodney

84. June 17th 1980, after explosion death of Walter Rodney, Donald Rodney gave a statement to Assist. Supt of Police (ASP) Ignatius McCrae.

85. Donald states he was given a device by one Gregory Smith, ex-Sergeant in the Guyana Defence Force (GDF). The device was a walkie-talkie for testing. The test was carried out by Donald in the presence of his brother, Walter Rodney, at certain locations in a car, coordinated with Gregory Smith located at his home and that later there was an explosion at the car.

86. He stated that the body of Walter was soon after found in the car by the Guyana Police.

87. Donald gave statement and testified before this Commission in February and March 2015, again giving the name of Gregory Smith and the circumstances.

88. Gregory Smith before he died in 2002 is alleged to have co-authored a book with his sister, Anne Wagner, stating that he gave Donald a device. He said the device was a w/t for testing.

Anne Wagner

89. Testified as to what her late brother told her between 1980 and 2002. She gave a statement and testified before this Commission on March 24th, 2015 corroborating that Smith handed a device to the Rodneys. By her testimony, the device contained explosives but “was not armed”.
90. Ms. Wagner confirmed that Smith travelled partly by car and was flown to Kwakwani. She also crucially testified that Smith was accompanied by his wife and children.
91. Ann Wagner speaks about the passport applications in Smith’s alias. These applications and the waiver of lawful requirements to facilitate the issue of the passport speaks to clear state involvement in the protection of Gregory Smith.

Edward Rodney

92. Mr Rodney said that the first occasion he met the man whom he knew as, Cyril Johnson, was in 1974 and thereafter on many separate occasions.
93. Mr Rodney came to know that the man he formally knew as Cyril Johnson was also called Gregory Smith since he saw his photograph in the Catholic Standard with the name ascribed to the said photograph.
94. He testified that on one isolated occasion he saw Gregory Smith walking in a House of Israel uniform which led him to believe that he was a part of said organization. He also saw Gregory Smith dressed in a Guyana Defence Force uniform

Captain Gerald Gouveia

95. Captain Gerald Gouveia indicated that a couple of days after the death of Dr. Rodney, he saw in the newspapers a picture of a person that was described as this man “Gregory Smith” that was involved or somehow related with the death of Dr. Walter Rodney. Captain Gouveia, when he saw the picture of the person, he felt like there was an anomaly in his mind that the person whom he saw in the newspapers looked like the man that was on his plane.
96. As a Pilot, Captain Gouveia was very conscious of anomalies on the planes they flew and thus the anomaly was felt when he saw a picture in the papers of Smith.
97. Captain Gouveia had a private moment when he remembered seeing the picture in the newspapers; it looked like the man who was in his aircraft. However, he never knew for sure.
98. As a Junior Army Officer, in the Military, it was not the norm to question anything and as a result Captain Gouveia never took any steps to ascertain whether it was in fact Gregory Smith, whom he may have unconsciously and involuntarily assisted in his escape. Captain Gouveia was simply following instructions from superior officers.
99. At the time of the death of Walter Rodney, the government controlled whatever information was filtered through the media to the citizens.
100. The Captain agreed that from the analysis and interpretation of his statement along with the statements of other witnesses, that the person that he Captain Gouveia dropped at Kwakwani from Timehri was in fact Gregory Smith.
101. Colonel McPherson and Major Lewis were both involved in the investigation of Gregory Smith and his involvement.

102. The flight that Gregory Smith was on was a priority. Smith's flight was the first out on June 14th, 1980.
103. Captain Gouveia admitted that he now realised, at the moment of this Enquiry, that he was a key person who transported or facilitated the departure of Gregory Smith but denied that on the day in question, June 14th 1980, he had in fact facilitated in the departure of Gregory Smith. Captain Gouveia further admitted that he would not have willingly spoken about the events surrounding the flight that Gregory Smith was on unless there was a national or legal obligation that he had to fulfil.
104. Captain Gouveia, in 1980, did not uphold Section 16 of the Guyana Defence Force Act which he took on oath.
105. Any civilian in the hangar had to get the approval or the permission from the High Commander of the Army Corps, a part of the State, before they could board a flight. Gregory Smith, therefore obtained the necessary permission since he was allowed to get on board the plane.

Reverend Gilbert

106. Testified that Gregory Smith was one of three men who showed up to see Walter Rodney at his office sometime in 1978.

Minister Rohee

107. Minister Rohee stated that Gregory Smith was employed by the PNC and that he was assisted out of the country by them after Walter Rodney's death and further that only the PNC had the resources, means and power to accomplish this.

• **Terms of reference (iv)**

Edward Rodney

108. Witness gave general overview of political atmosphere from 1978 to Walter Rodney's death and asserted inter alia that police force was intimidatory.

109. He further states that the Guyana Defence Force was also around to break up strikes.

110. He indicated that the group known as "House of Israel" led by a Rabbi Washington wore uniforms of similar colours to the police and to the PNC and that Members of the Guyana Police Force were acting in conjunction with the members of the House of Israel.

111. He stated that the House of Israel supported the PNC. Members would occupy the courthouse if a case was being tried which had political undercurrents, that is the WPA cases and that they also operated a "hit squad."

112. He testified further that the House of Israel would try to break up meetings being held by the WPA.

113. Mr. Rodney stated moreover that Radio Stations were virtually controlled by the government.

Karen De Souza

114. Testified that WPA meetings were broken up by an arm of the Guyana Police Force known as the “Death Squad” and meetings that were held mostly in Georgetown were broken up by members of House of Israel which included one held in Campbelville area in 1979.

115. She further stated that the Death Squad wore plain clothes and were vicious

116. She testified that members of the WPA, including the witness, were arrested by the government and that those arrested for arson in 1979 included: “Davo”, Rupert Roopnarine, Bonita Harris, her four year old son, Zamon Harris, Walter Rodney, Kwame Apata and Omawalee.

Rev. Gilbert

117. Testified as to the disruption of the Bourda Green WPA meeting by the police. YSM and the House of Israel.

118. This witness stated that two of his ribs were broken by followers of the YSM and/or the House of Israel in 1979.

119. He said he was told of a plot to kill him by his neighbour James Daniels (Jimmy”)

120. He stated further that some members of the death squad were part of police force and in 1980 the entire state was a police state.

121. He indicated that Death Squads and groups abounded, picking up information from people's conversations and described being kidnapped and beaten by three men, then taken to the Parliament house where he was beaten again before being handed over to the CID.

122. He recalled persons transporting him to jail referring to Walter Rodney as his boss and stating that his boss was now dead. "Ya'll bass dead now. We'll soon get rid of all ah you!".

123. This witness testified that the population was in fear of the government at the time because of the political problems.

Patricia Rodney

124. Ms. Rodney testified about the harassment of Walter's family and the growing dangers for the family, police searches and Walter's arrests. She spoke of Walter's continued calmness and understanding of the "victims of circumstance" and stated she had difficulties at her job and finding future work in Guyana as a result of the association.

125. She expressed her shock at deaths of 2 WPA supporters (Father Darke, Ohene Koama) in mid 1979/1980.

Minister Rohee

126. Indicated that when the Ministry of National Development was destroyed by fire on 14th July, 1979, several Opposition activists were rounded up and charged with arson

which included Dr. Walter Rodney, Dr. Omawale, Karen De Souza, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

127. He stated that two days later there was a major shakeup in the hierarchy of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and the removal of two Commanding Officers in the GDF, namely Price and Ulric Pilgrim.

128. He stated further that these two events were connected since it was believed that the hierarchy facilitated the WPA's penetration of the military and that removal of the hierarchy was necessary to negate further threats to the security of the state.

129. He testified that this occurrence was not viewed as uncommon as Burnham had demonstrated the will to remove people at his whim.

130. He noted that before and after the MND fire that thugs from the House of Israel and a death squad directed from the PNC Headquarters at Sophia were unleashed with greater frequency on the political opposition." including NGOs (e.g. Committee for the Defense of Democracy) that opposed the changes to the constitution.

131. This witness spoke of the connection between the House of Israel and PNC Headquarters (page 10) including the close relationship between Mr. David Hill, AKA "Rabbi Washington" and Burnham and the collaborative efforts of the two groups "There was absolutely no doubt about it because sometimes the way the thugs from the two operated... they became indistinguishable, unless the House of Israel people had on their dashiki outfits, but we knew who the PNC thugs were because they were always at a public meeting."

132. He also spoke of an incident at a Committee for the Defense of Democracy, CDD meeting with WPA & PPP speakers at North Road and Orange Walk where the meeting was broken up by House of Israel and PNC thugs and Gail Teixeira Personal Assistant to

Dr. Jagan was mistaken as Janet Jagan and was attacked.

133. He said there were collaborative efforts of the WPA and PPP and spoke of the PPP's support of WPA during 1978-1979 in organizing meetings. He said this resulted in the PNC's harassment of PPP members including Jagan who was charged with possession of ammunition after a spent shell was found in his yard.

134. He stated there was harassment of Indo-Guyanese in general and PPP supporters in particular in Guyana and overseas (Canada, US).

135. He testified that all organizations including Trade Unions, Churches in opposition to the PNC worked collaboratively. He further indicated that the WPA was seen as representing the Afro-Guyanese and the PPP as representing the Indo-Guyanese and united they brought the masses together and this posed a threat to the PNC.

136. He spoke of Walter Rodney's influence in changing the mindset of the masses to examine the politics in Guyana from a class perspective rather than racial one.

Rev Gilbert

137. He described being coerced by police officers trying to get him to give a statement and that the officers also threatened his life.

- **Terms of reference (v)**

THE LAW

138. There is a tendency to equate the role of Commission counsel with that of a prosecutor in criminal proceedings. If that equation confuses the principles of the adversarial system of criminal justice with the aims of an inquisitorial process to find the truth about some public scandal or disaster, the parallel may not be entirely inexact. One Canadian Commissioner in 1976 observed that the “duties of Commission Counsel in fact, are virtually identical with those of a prosecutor.” He explained: “ The role of a Crown Prosecutor in England and in Canada is not to struggle at all events for conviction. His duty is an officer of the court and ensures that all evidence, both favourable and unfavourable to the accused, is put before the court. This has been repeatedly stated here and abroad. In the Supreme Court of Canada in **Boucher v The Queen [1955] SCR 16** Rand, J. said at page 23: ‘It cannot be over-emphasised that the purpose of a criminal prosecution is not to obtain a conviction, it is to lay before a jury what the Crown considers to be credible evidence relevant to what is alleged to be a crime. Counsel has a duty to see that all available legal proof of the facts is presented: it should be done firmly and pressed to its legitimate strength but it must also be done fairly. The role of prosecutor excludes any notion of winning or losing; his function is a matter of public duty than which in civil life there can be none charged with greater personal responsibility. It is to be efficiently performed with an ingrained sense of the dignity, the seriousness and the justness of judicial proceedings.’

139. In this instant case, the testimony as discussed above relates to the state of affairs of the country during the period 1978 to 1980 before, leading up to and after the death of Dr. Walter Rodney. The uncontroverted evidence before the court is that the then reigning government controlled every station and action of the members of the WPA party which resulted in the execution of at least two of those members. The witnesses testified as to their lives being threatened and that every meeting held by the WPA was broken up. The PNC was called a military party and the members of the WPA, had their telephone conversations tapped and were in fear of endangerment due to their affiliations with the opposition.

140. Several witnesses also testified that Mr. Gregory Smith did indeed hand over the walkie talkies to Donald Walter and that the explosion device found was similar to that used by the Militia and further that Mr. Smith fled the country disguised under a different name following the death of Walter Rodney.
141. The role of the Commission is a public one, to bring equity and fairness to this matter with a just outcome.
142. Further and in keeping with a just and equitable outcome every person who is affected by this case and whose name is mentioned therein ought to be given a fair opportunity to be heard. In this light, it is to be noted that Major General Norman Mc Lean has not finished his cross examination and that three important witnesses namely Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, Dr. Robert Corbin and Mr. Cessil “skip” Roberts were not given an opportunity to testify. The case of Re Shulman examines the importance of key persons being heard and wherein the Ontario Court of Appeal reversed the ruling by the Commissioner who required the witness to be examined in the first instance by counsel for the Commission. Aylesworth J A said: “In our view, the present inquiry is decidedly of the type with which this Court was called upon to deal in Re Children’s Aid Society of the County of York....and a type of inquiry, therefore, to be distinguished from an inquiry directed to the gathering of information for the purposes of reporting....Dr Shulman should be accorded the privilege, if he so requests, of having his evidence-in chief upon any allegation which he has made brought out through his own counsel, and he should be subject to cross-examination not only by counsel for the Commission but by any person affected by his evidence. Cross-examination, wherever it is permitted, is not to be a limited cross-examination but is to be cross-examination upon all matters relevant to eliciting the truth or accuracy of the allegations or statements made. Similarly, any person affected by allegations made before the learned Commissioner should be accorded the privilege of examination as a witness by his own counsel and should be subject to a right of cross-examination, not only by counsel for the Commission but by any person affected by the evidence of that witness.”

143. It is respectfully submitted in light of this case that as a matter of fairness and public interest, these persons ought to have been allowed the opportunity to be examined and that cross examination of the Major General should have not been precluded prematurely.

144. Moreover, the issue of procedural fairness is examined in the Defence Watchdogs Seminar-November 2008 : Administrative Law as it Affects Commissions of Inquiry wherein it is stated by Andrew Kirkham AM RDF that it is well established that reputation is an interest which affords the person affected the standing to insist on natural justice/procedural fairness as stated in **Annetts v. McCann (1990) 170 CLR 596.**

145. However, in the case of **ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) v. Chaffey & Ors. (1993) 30 NSWLR 21,** Gleeson CJ, as he then was, stated at 28: The authorities amply demonstrate that potential damage to the reputation of a person who is the subject of a complaint being investigated at a hearing by the Commission enlivens the requirement to observe the rules of natural justice and entitles that person to procedural fairness, expounded in the case of **Mahon v. Air New Zealand Limited [1984] AC 808.** There remains to be considered however the question of the practical content of those rules in a given case. There is a fallacy in passing from the premise that the danger of harm to reputation requires the observance of procedural fairness to the conclusion that fairness requires that proceedings be conducted in all respects in such a way as to minimise damage to reputation. ... Where an obligation to observe procedural fairness is imposed by law upon a decision maker its practical content varies to reflect the common law's perception of what is necessary for procedural fairness in the circumstances of a particular case; **Hotocher v. Minister for Immigration (1990) 169 CLR 648** at 652 per Deane J.

146. It is submitted that after the explosion, the controlled media and police maintained that Walter intended to breach the Georgetown Prison and assist prisoners to escape. They purported that the release of the prisoners was to presumably join Walter Rodney and the WPA in acts of sabotage and Donald Rodney was arrested following the death of Walter

Rodney. In refusing the presidential pardon offered to him, Mr. Rodney only hopes that his innocence may be pronounced and made public, after thirty four (34) years. In order to minimise damage done to his reputation and as a matter of procedural fairness, all of the important witnesses to this matter ought to be called, including the said Dr. Roopnarine, Mr. Corbin and Mr. Roberts and that a fair opportunity of cross examination be given with respect to Major General Mc Lean.

147. It is respectfully submitted that although the Commission holds the power to determine which witnesses are to be given an opportunity to be heard that in keeping with procedural fairness of the inquiry and allowing Mr. Rodney a fair chance, that these witnesses ought to have been allowed to testify. It is therefore respectfully asked that this lack of opportunity be noted.

CLOSING SUBMISSIONS

Terms of Reference (i)

148. To examine the facts and circumstances immediately prior, at the time of, and subsequent to, the death of Walter Rodney in order to determine ,as far as possible, who or what was responsible for the explosion resulting in the death of Dr. Walter Rodney;

149. The Rodney Family submits that Donald Rodney was a scapegoat used to conceal the true perpetrators which was the PNC Government.

150. The Rodney Family submits that there are two incidents prior to the death of Dr Walter Rodney which would suggest the PNC Government were responsible for his death. The first occurred on 14 July 1979, where Walter among other persons were charged for arson, this resulted in a crowd of demonstrators coming out to show their support. The demonstrators formed a procession and proceeded to walk, at this point the procession was attacked by a group of men armed with cutlasses. This attack resulted in the death of a priest, Fr DARke. The Rodney Family submits that this elaborately staged ambush was executed by the State.

151. The other incident occurred while the Prime Minister was publicly addressing his party membership at a public gathering. The speech included a reference to the steel of the PNC being sharper, Donald submits that this was an open threat against the members of the WPA and clearly to Walter.

Terms of Reference (ii)

To enquire into the cause of the explosion in which Dr. Walter Rodney died, whether it was an act of terrorism, and if so, who were the perpetrators;

152. The Rodney Family submits that the evidence of Karen De Souza shows that Donald Rodney was clearly in distress when he ran to her home from the scene of the crime. Her description mirrors a man who had been hurt and urgently needed help. Karen testified that she took approximately eight minutes to get to scene yet at that time it was already swarmed with members of the Death Squad. There was no police station in such a close proximity that the officers would be able to get to the scene in such a fast time.

153. The Rodney Family denies the story of the controlled media, submitting that that neither Donald Rodney nor his Walter Rodney ever tried to free prisoners.

154. The magnitude of the explosion is testimony that it was not capable of freeing the prisoners since it was not even capable of destroying the dashboard of an ordinary domestic vehicle.

155. The Rodney Family further submits that Gregory Smith was the person who mentioned the Prison, Smith wanted to test the effect of the metal on transmission of the walkie-talkie and he said so voluntarily and without Donald's asking.

Terms of Reference (iii)

To specifically examine the role if any, of the late Gregory Smith, Sergeant of the Guyana Defence Force, played in the death of Dr. Walter Rodney, and if so, to inquire into who may have counselled, procured, aided and or abetted him to do so, including facilitating his departure from Guyana after Dr. Walter Rodney's death;

156. The Rodney Family submits that Gregory Smith was responsible for the explosion and death of his brother. He also puts forward that the PNC Government at that time were the persons behind the gruesome assassination. The House of Israel and the Guyana Defence Force were described by many witnesses as arms of the state. Edward Rodney's testimony that he saw Gregory Smith in the uniform of both the House and Israel and the Guyana Defence force links Gregory Smith to the PNC Government. The Rodney Family submits that Gregory Smith, not only was the key player in the death of his brother but Smith's instructions came from the then PNC government.

157. The Rodney Family submits that the contention in "the Book" that the device could only be activated or triggered by an external device when looked at in conjunction with the absence of injury to Walter Rodney's hands proves that the device was detonated by a person other than Walter Rodney or Donald Rodney. The Rodney Family submits that Gregory Smith was placed in the vicinity of Walter Rodney immediately preceding the assassination. Patricia Rodney testifies that Gregory Smith came to Rodney house on June 12th looking for Walter. He left on foot and left headed towards the direction of Crime Chief Skip Roberts house. Patricia Rodney overheard Walter on the phone making arrangements to re-schedule his meeting with Gregory Smith for June 13th at 1900hrs.

158. The Rodney Family submits that pilot Captain Gouveia was , being military, was always trained to be aware of any anomalies that may have existed on his plane. The Rodney Family submits that although Captain Gouveia could not confirm that he was 100% certain that the picture he saw was "Gregory Smith", he knew that there was some

irregularity that day. Even though Captain Gouveia indicated that while he would never be able to indicate with 100% certainty, The Rodney Family submits that Captain Gouveia's evidence taken into conjunction with statements of other witnesses can conclude that Gregory Smith was on his plane on July 14th 1980. A substantial amount of priority was placed on the first flight on the morning of June 14th 1980 as submitted by Gouveia. This means that there was the need to ensure that Gregory Smith and his family were to be removed from the Georgetown area if not the country in the event that Smith was linked to the death of Walter Rodney. Gouveai testified that for Smith to get on the plane required high level authorization and Gouveia clearly had instructions to transport the person the believed to be Smith.

159. The Rodney Family submits that the evidence that Gregory Smith was linked to the government is indisputable. Jocelyn Dow and others spoke to the fact that the State has continued to deny the "existence" of Gregory Smith, even with the abundance of evidence to show he was in the GDF, was on the payroll, was never deemed a deserter and further was trained in explosives. That the facts show that Gregory Smith was taken by GDF personnel the morning after to Kwakwani and then transported out of the country by GDF aircraft/helicopter. These facts were corroborated by a number of witness in the GDF and private persons in GS's neighbourhood.

160. The Rodney Family submits that the government was responsible for Rodney's death. Minister Rohee Clement testified that the PNC led by Burnham was responsible for Walter Rodney's death "beyond the shadow of a doubt" and surmised that Walter Rodney's death was an act of State Sponsored Terrorism. Because Gregory Smith was employed by the PNC and assisted out of the country by them after Walter Rodney's death only the PNC had the resources, means and power to accomplish this.

161. The Rodney Family submits that the Skuse report implicates the government in procuring the materials for Smith to make the device. The Skuse forensic report found

that the explosives and the materials used by Smith to make the “walkie-talkie” were used by the GDF as anti-personnel equipment. The ICJ report noted that Smith must have been assisted in getting the explosive materials and devices as he could not have acted alone. The Skuse report also noted that the device could not have detonated as the government claimed. Rohit Kanhai supported the Skuse report and testified that the explosives in device could not have been put together by a lay person and would have been detonated remotely.

162. The Rodney Family submits that the government provided and facilitated a passport and new identity for Gregory Smith. The government provided Gregory Smith with a passport under the name of Cyril Johnson in 1982; he now had 2 passports. Sergeant Alexis Adams stated that the passport process was overlooked since the application had Commissioner of Police on it and the passport was issued without following normal procedures, such as the person being present, a guarantor and/or paying the requisite fee. The then Commissioner of Police was Laurie Lewis.

163. The Rodney Family submits that the witness identification of Smith is uncontroverted as to his role as a Sergeant in the army and his role as a radio technician. Pamela Beharry’s statement shows that he was a Sergeant, she knew his “wife” Gwendolyn Jones and her children, and visited his home on numerous occasions and visited him at least once on the GDF base. She further testified that many military people would visit him at the home, including a Major.

164. The Rodney Family submits that the failure to investigate is an indication of guilt. The disappearances of two key witnesses immediately following the assassination of Walter Rodney is indefensible. No attempts were made to locate Ms. Gwendoline Jones, a person connected to Mr. Smith who disappeared after Dr. Rodney’s death. No investigation has been conducted to determine the whereabouts of Ms. Joan Melvin (Melville) a girlfriend of Smith, despite reports that she had been posted to a diplomatic position in Canada and later vanished.

The Rodney Family submits that Smith's movements around Guyana after the 13th June 1980, his egress from the country and his later passport applications all speak to involvement of the PNC Government in his protection from prosecution. **Terms of Reference (iv)**

To examine and report the actions and activities of the State, such as, the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana National Service, the Guyana People's Militia and those who were in command and superintendence of these agencies, to determine whether they were tasked with the surveillance of and the carrying of actions, and whether they did execute those tasks and carried out those actions against the Political Opposition, for period 1st January, 1978 to 31st December, 1980.

165. The Rodney Family submits that the government was a dictatorship in that the party its Leader was paramount. Karen DeSouza and Eusi Kwayana elaborated on the doctrine of "Paramountcy of the Party" which meant that the party controlled all arms of the State and you should be subject or subservient to the party. The Declaration of Sophia and various documents determined National Development and the directions within which the country should be moving.

166. The Rodney Family submits that the Government was a Dictatorship and they allowed no political party or any entity to oppose their authority. In the two years leading up to 1980, there was unrest in Guyana and two WPA members were killed. Rev Gilbert also testified that he was warned that he would be killed by the PNC and there after he luckily escaped death. He submits that the PNC made open threats to the WPA and anyone who opposed the Government. Joseph Hamilton who was part of the House of Israel also testified that they were often given instructions by the PNC to break up meetings of the WPA. The evidence of the witnesses of this Inquiry corroborates to show that the House of Israel and the Defence force were used by the Government to ensure there was no Opposition. Karen DeSouza, Patricia Rodney, Nigel Westmaas and others testified to the breaking up of meetings and beatings by the Police.

167. The Rodney Family submits that there was constant surveillance by the Police. Omowale, Jocelyn Dow and Leslie James (Senior Superintendent) testified to the

existence of a Recognition handbook that detailed personal, family and vehicle information and that was used to identify members of the WPA. Patricia Rodney testified that death squad vehicles would be parked near the house conducting surveillance on the house and on Walter's activities. She further testifies that there was a government vehicle parked outside the house with personnel two weeks prior to Walter Rodney's death and that she was warned that a bomb would be placed under the Rodney car.

168. Robert Allen Gates testifies that there was substantial undercover surveillance activity on the WPA. Donald Rodney submits that the surveillance was by carried out and facilitated by the government at the highest levels. Gates testifies that he was active police officer who operated a dual agent and served as the body guard of Rupert Roopnaraine. In addition, Gates testified that there were several other dual or double agents that were planted within the WPA circle to report on the activities. Leslie James testifies that an undercover officer visited the WPA office pretending to buy a Dayclean (literature) and was able to provided police a detailed physical layout of the WPA office. Rober Allen Gates also testified that he was contracted to kill Ruper Roopnaraine. It is his evidence that his contract and other similar onces were being instituted at the behest of the political leader Forbes Burnham.

169. Many witness, including Edward Rodney, Patricia Rodney, Jocelyn Dow and Karen DeSouza spoke to hostile environment and the actions of the government and their actors. Donald Rodney submits that the Police, Army and House of Israel harassed and and intimidated the population. Death threats were made to family members and business associates. There was disruption of business trading, destruction of personal and business property. All these "facts" are highlighted in the "independent" press and corroborated by other sources and witnesses including CANA and BBC.

170. Leslie James presented two files on the WPA. Leslie James also characterised the disappearance of files as rare and very unusual. The evidence showed that there were 7 other files that were missing that would have detailed WPA activities, including those of its members. In addition, the WPA files were cross-referenced with additional personal

files that were kept of all WPA members and affiliates.

171. The Rodney Family submits that the entire orchestration of the death of his brother was predetermined and planned out by the PNC government and he had no part to play in it.

Terms of Reference (v)

To examine, review and report on earlier investigations and inquiries done on and into the death of Dr. Walter Rodney.

172. The Rodney Family submits that in 1980 the investigation into the death of Walter Rodney was carried out; Donald Rodney was convicted of February 1982 despite the obviously incomplete police investigation and equally obvious unfair prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

173. An Inquest was conducted in 1988. The International Commission Jurists (ICJ) found that instructions by the magistrate were inadequate. To wit, that no one had laid eyes on this Gregory Smith; that rejected the possibility of an assassination; that was unwilling to call Donald Rodney as a witness; where the only verdict is death by accident or misadventure or no one criminally responsible, and where counsel for the family of Walter Rodney objected to the partiality of the proceedings .

174. Shaka Rodney, the son of Walter Rodney, fasted and camped in front of Parliament in 1992 to protest the failure to investigate the assassination of Walter Rodney. Donald Rodney submits that this precipitated the ICJ investigation.

175. Leslie James testified that no formal investigation was conducted until 1988. Prior to this time, James testified that there was failure to properly or adequately investigate the death. The Rodney Family submits that the failure to properly or

adequately investigate caused the removal of evidence, the fleeing of witnesses and perpetrators and the interruption of justice.

176. The Rodney Family submits that he appeared before the International Commission Jurists (ICJ) team in 1989, in 1995 the Guyana Government invited the ICJ to send an investigatory team to make a preliminary assessment into Walter Rodney's death, they accepted the invitation and submitted a report on its findings to the Attorney General's Office. Included in the recommendations of the Report was a recommendation that the appeal proceedings in Donald Rodney's case pending since February 26, 1982 should be speedily brought to an end. Further Donald Rodney submits that in reviewing the criminal proceedings against him the ICJ found that the trial did not meet the minimum standard of due process of law, and that it was clear that the presumption of innocence was not respected in his trial.
177. The Rodney Family submits that the purported dismissal of his appeal without any legitimate attempt to contact him was unlawful.
178. The ICJ later found that the Inquest was fatally flawed and tainted with great defects. It noted that a fresh look at the available evidence is therefore warranted and necessary.
179. The Rodney Family has repeatedly asked for justice into the assassination of Walter Rodney. In 2005, the family was promised an investigation after meeting with the then President, the process came to a halt. It was reported in the media that Patricia withdrew her request for the inquiry. This was untrue and it later came to light that Rupert Roopnaraine had made this statement to the Office of the President.
180. The Rodney Family supports Donald Rodney in his rejection of the Presidential Pardon and look forward to him having an opportunity to prove his innocence.

