

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Jamaica: Civil Unrest

Information bulletin n° 1
26 May 2010

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

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A state of emergency has been in place in parts of Kingston, Jamaica since Sunday 23 May 2010. Police reports indicate that at least 27 people have died in the exchange of gunfire in Kingston, including one member of the armed forces and 26 civilians. Another seven officers and 25 civilians were also injured.

For the past five days, the Jamaica Red Cross has been on stand-by to assist in meeting the humanitarian needs presented.

On the request of the Prime Minister of Jamaica on 25 May 2010, the Jamaica Red Cross was requested to undertake a rapid needs assessment in the affected areas. The President and Director General of the Jamaican Red Cross, together with the Public Defender and the Political Ombudsman visited Tivoli Gardens and Denham Town in order to understand the humanitarian situation and look at the support that could be provided.

A map will be made available in the following days.

The Situation

A state of emergency has been in place in parts of Kingston, Jamaica since Sunday 23 May 2010, when several police stations were attacked. On Tuesday 25 May 2010, thousands of officers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), under joint patrol, continued to seek to control the situation in the Tivoli Gardens district of the capital, Kingston.

The interaction between the armed forces and some civilians resulted in the intermittent blockage of the road to the Norman Manley International Airport, in Kingston, which resulted in the cancellation of some flights. A number of countries have warned their citizens against travel to Kingston.

At a press conference held on Tuesday 25 May in Jamaica, police reported that at least 27 people have died in the exchange of gunfire in Kingston, including members of the armed forces and civilians. An additional seven officers and 25 civilians were also injured; while a total of 211 other civilians have been detained.

The main disturbances have been in the area around Tivoli Gardens stretching from Darling Street in the east, Industrial Terrace in the west, Spanish Town Road to the north and Marcus Garvey Drive in the south. Other areas, including Fletcher's Land, Denham Town, East Queen Street in the vicinity of the Central Police Station, and sections of Hannah Town have also recorded exchanges of gunfire.



Police patrol the streets outside the neighbourhood of Tivoli Gardens in Kingston 25 May 2010. REUTERS/Andrew P. Smith

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Jamaica Red Cross

The Jamaica Red Cross continues to monitor the situation in Tivoli Gardens and surrounding communities, and has placed its ambulance and volunteers on stand-by for deployment since the situation developed late last week.

After a meeting with the Prime Minister of Jamaica on Tuesday 25 May 2010, the President and Director General of the Jamaica Red Cross undertook a rapid assessment of the two of the affected communities – Tivoli Gardens, the centre of the clashes, and neighbouring Denham Town.

The Jamaica Red Cross has a strong team of volunteers experienced in psychosocial support (PSP) and first aid that are ready to provide assistance as required.

The Red Cross Movements Response

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are working in close collaboration, and have been in constant communication with the Jamaica Red Cross to ascertain the support required and remain on standby to provide the assistance to the National Society as requested. The ICRC remains ready to provide assistance, in conjunction with the deployment of an ICRC Delegate to assist in such efforts.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

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