

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6
OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Jamaicans for Justice]

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION BY
JAMAICANS FOR JUSTICE
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs/Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization (CSO) *Jamaicans for Justice*.

The information contained in this report is provided pursuant to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities," and includes a summary and list of documentation presented by *Jamaicans for Justice* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Jamaicans for Justice is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded on October 15, 1999 in Kingston, Jamaica that aims to promote reform of judicial, economic, social, and political systems in order to promote equal opportunity, welfare and respect for the well-being of all citizens.

Jamaicans for Justice achieves its mission through monitoring cases and offering legal services to victims of alleged abuses of rights by police and security forces, and by conducting campaigns to improve public sector accountability while promoting human rights awareness through civic engagement with policymakers and education programs focused on social and economic rights. *Jamaicans for Justice* also participates in local and international conferences on issues of human security, access to information and abuse of rights.

Jamaicans for Justice has presented several reports, petitions and requests for Precautionary Measures to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and participated in the XXXIX Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly in June 2009 and in the preparatory meeting for the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security of the Americas (MISPA) in August 2008.

Jamaicans for Justice has collaborated with other local and international organizations to achieve its objectives, including Amnesty International, The Carter Center and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others. *Jamaicans for Justice* has financed its activities through grants received from the United States Public Affairs Department, British High Commission, Embassy of Germany in Jamaica, and Christian Aid, and through fundraising events.

Jamaicans for Justice submitted its request for registration in the OAS on September 8, 2008.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO

Name: Jamaica for Justice

Address: 2 Fagan Avenue Kingston 8
Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: (876) 755 – 4524-6
Fax: (876) 755 – 4355
Email address: ja.for.justice@cwjamaican.com
Website: www.jamaicansforjustice.org
Executive Director: Carolyn Gomes
Date established: October 15, 1999

3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities

Jamaicans for Justice works in the promotion and respect of human rights through following areas of activities:

- Educate citizens to increase awareness of their legal and human rights to ensure access to these rights;
- Conduct research, community education and advocacy programs on issues related to social and economic justice through the implementation of community workshops, reports, and radio and print campaigns; and
- Promote forums for dialogue between civil society and the State, to discuss issues of human rights, policies and legal reform in the areas of corruption, access to information, and the criminal justice system in Jamaica, among other topics.

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Jamaicans for Justice advocates human rights for all citizens through the submission of petitions, reports and support for victims of human rights violations. The activities of *Jamaicans for Justice* that may be of interest to the OAS include:

- Monitoring cases and providing legal support and advice for people who are the victims of alleged state abuse of rights;
- Participating in local and international conferences on issues related to human security, access to information and human rights; and
- Implementing educational programs communities to increase awareness of citizens' legal, social and economic rights through radio and print campaigns, legal advice workshops, e-newsletters, consultative forums, stakeholder meetings and annual justice reports.

5. Identification of OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to collaborate

Jamaicans for Justice proposes to collaborate with the OAS in the following areas:

- Contribute to the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in the promotion of human rights and offer feedback and recommendations on its work to protect human rights defenders;
- Collaborate with the Department of State Modernization and Good Governance of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) in the promotion of the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and support public service reforms to increase transparency and build confidence in public institutions;
- Cooperate with the Department of Legal Cooperation of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs in the implementation and monitoring of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Follow-Up Mechanism for its Implementation (MESICIC);
- Participate in and provide recommendations to Member States in the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA); and
- Support the work of the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations by participating in civil society meetings and forums held in the framework of the OAS General Assemblies, ministerial meetings and meetings of OAS political bodies, especially those related to development, good governance, and protection of human rights.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General dated September 8, 2008
- Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association
- Certificate of Approval of Statutes, October 15, 1999
- Chairperson's Report for 2007-2008, 2008-2009
- Financial Statements 2007, 2008 (signed by Hamilton, Hall & Co.)
- Report submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2008