

HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT, COOPERATION, AND INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND AND THE BARBADOS DEFENCE FORCE

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Human Rights Engagement, Cooperation, and Integration Framework (the "Human Rights Framework") between the United States Southern Command ("USSOUTHCOM") and the Barbados Defence Force ("BDF"), referred to collectively as the "Participants" and individually as a "Participant," is to join the Human Rights Initiative ("HRI") in general and to implement the HRI's Consensus Document in particular.

2. BACKGROUND: The HRI's aims are to institutionalize effective human rights programs and to establish a regional network of military and security forces that are committed to human rights protection to prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The HRI was born in 1997 at a conference co-hosted by USSOUTHCOM and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. During the conference, which was attended by ministers and chiefs of defense and security from throughout the Western Hemisphere, the attendees identified the need to establish common criteria for measuring human rights progress.

To meet this need, between 1997 and 2002, participants from 34 democracies of the Western Hemisphere, to include Barbados, participated in six hemispheric HRI conferences to develop the "Consensus Document." In addition to partner nation participants, the Consensus Document was developed with the assistance from human rights experts from academia, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the United Nations, and the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as Human Rights Watch and the Washington Office on Latin America, who served as advisors to the process.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The Participants' actions under this Human Rights Framework are guided by the following principles:

- A. This Human Rights Framework is not legally binding and is not intended to create any legally enforceable rights or obligations on the Participants.
- B. This Human Rights Framework represents the Participants' guidance to their respective organizations and represents the Participants' intent as it relates to the HRI.
- C. This Human Rights Framework does not commit or obligate any funds of either Participant. The Participants recognize that the cooperation contemplated under this Human Rights Framework is subject to the availability of funds for such purposes.

D. This Human Rights Framework is not intended to create any authority to perform any work, award any contract, transfer funds, or otherwise obligate in any way the Participants to make or provide any financial or non-financial contribution to the other Participant for any purpose.

E. This Human Rights Framework does not preclude the Participants from entering into any agreement or arrangement, whether with each other or with any other entity in relation to matters within the scope of this Human Rights Framework or any other related matter.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE: The Participants declare their intent as follows:

A. The BDF confirms its membership in the Human Rights Initiative and its desire to implement the Consensus Document.

B. USSOUTHCOM, through its Human Rights Office (and the Executive Secretariat for Support and Follow-up of the HRI) desires to support the BDF as a member of the HRI, to include in implementing the Consensus Document.

5. MODIFICATIONS:

A. This Human Rights Framework may be modified at any time in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.

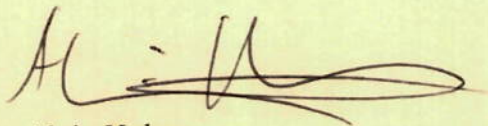
B. Revisions should be appended to this Human Rights Framework.

6. START DATE & DURATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK:

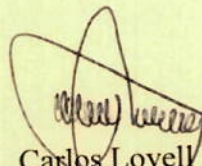
A. This Human Rights Framework starts on the date of the last signature and remains operative until discontinued by one or both Participants.

B. Each Participant endeavors to provide six (6) months advance written notice to the other Participant of its intent to discontinue this Human Rights Framework.

Signed in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 15 May 2024.



Alvin Holsey
Vice Admiral, USN
Military Deputy Commander



Carlos Lovell
Lieutenant Colonel, BDF
Acting Chief of Staff