



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

March 26, 2026

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF DEFENCE COMMENDS SWIFT MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE IN RESCUE OPERATION

Minister of Defence, the Honourable Wayne Sturge wishes to commend Commodore Don Polo, Chief of Defence Staff, along with the officers and enlisted members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (Coast Guard and Regiment), for their swift, timely and clinically coordinated operation which led to the safe rescue of kidnap victim, Ms. Tara Poliah, late last night. The victim was abducted earlier in the evening, shortly after sundown.

Acting on intelligence, the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG), working in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (TTR), intercepted a vessel en route to Venezuela carrying the victim.

Seven foreign nationals and one Trinidad and Tobago national were detained.

The Minister notes that this successful outcome reflects the effective coordination of the military and law enforcement, as well as strengthened operational capability under the State of Emergency.

Follow-on operations are ongoing as military and law enforcement personnel continue to work in the Maracas and Las Cuevas areas.

In spite of challenges faced by a decade long degradation of our military capabilities, the Ministry of Defence reaffirms its commitment to decisive action in protecting our citizens and securing our borders.

The brave men and women who took part in this operation are deserving of the highest commendation. The Ministry of Defence is eternally grateful for the commitment to duty and dedication to service.

Wayne D Sturge, M.P
Minister of Defence
Minister in the Ministry of Homeland Security

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