

# **News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending November 21, 2009**

## **Curacao – Election Poll: Opposition Parties Gaining Ground**

A bi-weekly pre-election poll predicts that the current combination of opposition parties MAN\NPA\Forsa Korsou is gaining ground on the PAR\PNP\FOL coalition. The coalition majority has shrunk from 52% a month ago to 39% last week. The MAN\NPA\Forsa Korsou combination is expected to get 22% (+5%) while the Sovereign People Party which strives for independence is expected to get 14% (+1%) of the votes. The polling organizers stated that their poll is independent and scientifically based. The poll is also available on [www.opinionkorsou.com](http://www.opinionkorsou.com). (Extra, Antilliaans Dagblad)

## **Curacao – State Secretary of Finance Rosaria Resigned?**

State Secretary of Finance Alex Rosaria reportedly resigned over policy and political disagreements with PNP party leadership. Late last week Rosaria announced that he will not be an electable candidate for the January parliamentary elections. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Hyatt Opening Delayed**

Hyatt PR bureau Intermediate announced that the Hyatt Resort Curaçao official opening, scheduled for January 19, 2010, is delayed by a month. (Various media)

## **St. Maarten – Tourism Bureau Opens New Office in New York**

The government of St. Maarten has opened a new tourist sales office in New York. "The opening of this office is a key element in the St. Maarten marketing plan to promote tourism and remain a leading Caribbean travel destination for North American travelers," said Regina Labega, director of tourism for St. Maarten. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

## **Curacao – Arevenca Interested in Purchasing Isla Refinery**

Venezuelan/Spanish-owned Oil Company Arevenca (<http://www.arevenca.com.ve/>) is reportedly interested in purchasing the Venezuelan state-owned PdVSA operated Isla Refinery, according to the [www.enlosbilletes.com](http://www.enlosbilletes.com) website. (Various media)

## **Curacao - USFOL Helps Out at Orphanage**

Staff from the U.S. Forward Operating Location (USFOL) on Curacao commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Price is organizing a community relations project at the "Meant to Shine Foundation" orphanage in Barber. The service men and women will continue with a landscaping and clean-up project on Wednesday which started last month. FOL military and civilian personnel often volunteer their services in support of community projects and are pleased to partner with local agencies in reaching out to the people of Curaçao. (Various media)

## **Antilles – State Secretary Rosaria Officially Resigned**

Netherlands Antilles State Secretary of Finance Alex Rosaria has officially turned in his resignation in a letter to Governor Goedgedrag. Rosaria resigned over policy and political disagreements with PNP party leadership. He will not be an electable candidate for the January parliamentary elections, but intends to remain a party member pending a meeting with party leadership later this week. (Various media)

## **Statia – Island Celebrates Statia-America Day**

Yesterday, Statia celebrated Statia-America Day which marked the 233rd anniversary of the First Salute to the American vessel Andrew Doria from Fort Oranje on November 16, 1776. This year's theme is "233 years we Salute, „n today we pay Tribute." The annual re-enactment of the 1776 Salute started with a 6:00am ceremony at Historic Fort Oranje. (Daily Herald)

## **Curacao – Nine Political Parties Registered for January 2010 Election**

Nine political parties registered in Curacao for the January 2010 parliamentary elections. Coalition partners PAR, PNP, and FOL; opposition parties Lista di Kambio (MAN, NPA, Forsa Korsou), DP, and Pueblo Soberano (Sovereign Party); newcomers PPE (Emancipation Party), MSI (Refinery Closing Party) and Lista Speransa (The Hope list). (Amigoe)

## **Statia – USCGC KEY LARGO Highlights Statia-America Day**

Statia celebrated Statia-America Day which marked the 233rd anniversary of the First Salute to the American vessel Andrew Doria from Fort Oranje on November 16, 1776. The annual re-enactment of the 1776 Salute was highlighted by the visit of U.S. Coast Guard cutter KEY LARGO. (Daily Herald)

## **St. Maarten – NA&A Coastguard Prevents Human Smuggling Attempt**

The NA&A Coastguard prevented a human smuggling attempt by stopping a boat with 32 Haitians aboard, last Tuesday. The Agatha D. Grenada, still within St. Maarten territorial waters, was trying to go to the U.S., according to local authorities. Crew and passengers were apprehended and the boat was confiscated. (Daily Herald)

## **Curacao – Approx. 15,000 Cruise Tourists Expected This Week**

The Curaçao Tourism Bureau (CTB) expects approximately 15,000 cruise tourists Tuesday through Thursday this week. Holland America Line cruise ships *Noordam* and *Zuiderdam* brought approx. 4,000 cruise tourists to the island on Tuesday. Today, *Sea Princess* (2,000 passengers), *Adventure of the Seas* (3,400 passengers) and *Crystal Symphony* (1,000 passengers) are expected to make a port of call. *Westerdam* (1,800 passengers), *Constellation* (2,000 passengers) and *Ocean Dream* (1,000 passengers) are planning to visit Curacao tomorrow. The CTB projects more than US \$12 million in revenues during the three day span. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Cruise Ship Logos Hope to Visit Curacao**

International Christian Mission Organization “Operation Mobilization” works around the world with 5,400 missionaries from more than 90 nations working in more than 110 countries and onboard two ocean-going missions’ ships. Its cruise ship Logos Hope carrying 400 volunteers from 45 countries and 500,000 books will visit Curacao from December 18, 2009 to January 6, 2010 to share knowledge, help, and hope. (Amigoe)

## **Bonaire – Pre-Referendum Poll Favors “Free Association” Status**

A pre-referendum survey among 365 people, organized by Bonaire students, indicates that approximately 65% of the population opts for a “free association” status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The previous Bonaire government decided on integration within the Netherlands together with Saba and Statia, but the current Island government wants to decide that fate in a referendum. The Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten repeatedly said that a “Free Association” is not a Dutch Kingdom option. The referendum question is whether the direct ties with the Netherlands, as opted for by the Bonaire people in 2004, should be molded into a free association or public entity format. A proposed January 15, 2010 referendum date was recently postponed. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Psychiatrist Support for International School**

Philip J. Lazarus, Ph.D., an Associate Professor and Director of the School Psychology Training Program at Florida International University is invited by the International School of Curacao (ISC) to counsel students, teachers, and parents in the Stephen Wayne Sudduth child pornography case. Dr. Lazarus has served as the Director of the Program for 30 years and his primary responsibility is to train school psychologists to work in the schools. Sudduth, a former International School of Curacao (ISC) teacher was arrested and indicted in the U.S. after law enforcement officials in Texas found 57,000 images of child pornography and 1,000 videos of sex involving young children on his computer. He taught kindergarten at ISC from 2006 to 2009. (Various media)

## **Aruba – Eman Cabinet Adjusts Entry Requirement**

The new Eman Cabinet decided to make more lenient the Foreigners Admittance Decree - in effect since August 1 – which caused strife among Dutch and American citizens. Minister of Justice and Education Arthur Dowers announced that the stringent 12-month rule would be reversed. Visitors of EU countries and the U.S. are now allowed to stay longer than 180 days in Aruba, based on the changes. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Port Companies Attend SeaCargo Americas Conference**

Representatives of the Stevedore Company Curaçao Ports Services (CPS) and Harbor Company Curaçao Ports Authority (CPA) attended the fourth SeaCargo Americas Conference in Miami, last week. The goal of the conference was to enhance the growth of the industry in the Americas. The IV SeaCargo Americas exposition was held in conjunction with the X Air Cargo Americas Congress & Exposition. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Sovereign Party Organizes Independence Conference**

Opposition party Pueblo Soberano (Sovereign Party) leader Helmin Wiels announced that he has invited Dr. Carlyle Corbin as the keynote speaker at their Independence Conference at the International School Curacao on November 27. Corbin is an international advisor on global governance and former Minister of State for External Affairs of the U.S. Virgin Islands Government. He has served as a United Nations (U.N.) expert on self-determination for over a decade, and as a political advisor to several chairs of the U.N. Decolonization Committee. He is the author of two United Nations studies on the participation non-independent countries in the United Nations system, four books and numerous scholarly articles on political and constitutional advancement. Corbin will also visit Bonaire. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Power Supply Delicate**

The power supply to local utility company Aqualectra by the Build, Own & Operate (BOO) utility plant, at Curaçao's PdVSA-operated Isla refinery, remains limited for the coming days due to a blackout. The supply of electricity to various neighborhoods on Curacao is delicate and possible disruptions are possible until the issue is resolved, according to an Aqualectra spokesperson. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Air Comet to Establish Regional Hub on Curacao**

Air Comet, an airline based in Madrid, Spain, is reportedly interested in establishing a hub on Curacao. The company operates scheduled long-haul services from Madrid to 13 destinations in Central and South America, as well as services in Europe. Air Comet was recently taken-over by Air Transport Group Holdings, Inc., a holding company structured to acquire majority-equity interests of businesses in the aviation, travel and leisure-time industries. Curacao native Arnold B. Leonora is the founder, Chairman & Chief Executive of Air Transport Group Holdings. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Insel Air Announces Extended Service to Miami**

Insel Air announced extended scheduled jet service, by adding a second daily flight, from Curacao to Miami as of Sunday, December 13. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

## **Antilles – H1N1 Vaccinations Start on Monday**

The Netherlands Antilles Health Department announced that it has received a sufficient batch of H1N1 vaccines from the Netherlands to start vaccinating high-risk groups on practically all islands of the Netherlands Antilles as of Monday, November 23. (Various media)

## **Aruba – English Language Newspaper “The News” Bankrupt**

The court in Aruba declared the bankruptcy of the English language newspaper The News. (Daily Herald)

## **Aruba – Air Tran to Start Nonstop Service to Aruba**

Next month, AirTran ([www.airtran.com](http://www.airtran.com)) will begin nonstop flights from Atlanta to Aruba on Saturdays. In February, it will offer Saturday flights between Orlando, Fla., and Aruba. (Aruba Post)

## **CURAÇAO**

### ***Crime November 13 – 19***

On November 19 a money courier for a lottery ticket-selling business was robbed by two men in Juan Hato (Extra).

## **ARUBA**

### ***Crime November 13 – 19***

On November 17 three teenagers attempted to rob an elderly woman in her home in Pos Chquito. When the victim resisted, they abandoned their robbery attempt. The suspects were later arrested (Amigoe, Extra).

## **ST. MAARTEN**

### ***Crime November 13 – 19***

On November 17 a man was robbed in Simpson Bay. The same morning a supermarket in Cole Bay was robbed by several men. That afternoon four men attempted to force a businessman in his office in Cay Hill to sign checks in order to cash them at a bank. When the victim refused and called the police the suspects abandoned his office (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time).

### ***Suspected robbers apprehended***

Police arrested four men on November 17 as suspects in six armed robberies during the past week. In holdups between November 12 and 16, robbers in groups of two or three held up persons, taking their cash, jewelry, cell phones and laptops (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time, Amigoe).

*“The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein.”*