

June 5, 2010

Hon. Bruce Golding
Prime Minister and Minister of Information
Office of the Prime Minister
1 Devon Road
Kingston 10

Dear Prime Minister:

The Press Association of Jamaica is compelled to raise with you the matter of the absence of independent media during your recent visit to Tivoli Gardens. We believe it would have been appropriate to have the media accompany you on your first visit to an area that was the centre of a major confrontation between the security forces and lawless citizens.

The distribution of video footage, photographs and news releases conveyed the impression that your office was controlling the information related to your visit to West Kingston in the aftermath of an event that had significant national impact.

We note, with consternation, a similar approach was taken by the chiefs of the constabulary and the military during their first visit to West Kingston following the launch of the operation.

While the area might have still presented security challenges, we believe a scaled down or pooled media presence could have addressed these concerns. The Press Association of Jamaica stands ready to provide logistical support if such situations arise in the future.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Byron Buckley
President

Cc: Gary Allen, Chairman Media Association Jamaica Limited
Media houses