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Jamaica – special report

Special Questions regarding the Jamaica Urban Transit Co.

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Appendix: Special Questions regarding the Jamaica Urban Transit Co. (JUTC)

Question #1: Are there any articles referring to the JUTC as the Chi Chi Bus because former Prime Minister Patterson (rumored to be gay) initiated the system in his term in office?

Question #2: Are there any articles referring to the general public assumption that JUTC workers are gay and referred to as Chi Chi men?

Question #3: Are there any news reports regarding the killing of Howyie Campbell who was apparently shot and killed in front of his house on Old Harbour Rd. in Spanish Town St. Catherines?

Question #4: Are there any reports or articles regarding the JUTC in 1994/95 where the workers were demanding that the media stop referring to the workers as Chi Chi Men? Did the Minister of Transport put pressure on the Jamaica Gleaner and did they apparently stopped referring to JUTC employees as such?

Question #5: Are there any reports of other violent incidents involving employees of the JUTC including (i) the killing of a driver in 2001 who was on Mountain View Rd. in St. Andrew at the time and dragged out of the bus and stabbed 36 times and (ii) the 2005 incident of another driver, Winston Bungles, who was shot and injured while driving staff home one night in the Kinston and St. Andrew area?

Question #6: Are there any reports/articles referring to May 23, 2007 Jamaica Labour Day, on Hellshire Beach a mob severely beat a man they assumed was gay (who almost drowned until fishermen saved him)?

Introduction

In this appendix, we address the basic question of whether the JUTC is associated with homosexuality and whether this association has led to homophobic violence. According to the sources consulted:

- *Allegations of PM's Patterson's homosexuality are documented*
- *The sources consulted do not show a connection to the popular perception of the JUTC as a Chi Chi organization and PM Patterson's alleged homosexuality*
- *Although JUTC buses and JUTC employees appear to be widely referred to as chi chi buses and chi chi bus drivers, there is some ambiguity as to whether the nickname refers to homosexuality or if it refers to the sound of the bus's doors or brakes*
- *One blog reports a threat by JUTC employees to strike in response to a newspaper article calling them chi chi bus drivers*
- *Although there are reports of violence against JUTC employees, the sources consulted do not connect this violence with homophobia*



Question #1: Are references to JUTC as the Chi Chi Bus attributable to the alleged homosexuality of PM Patterson?

Although there are documented allegations of homosexuality on the part of PM Patterson, we have been unable to find any documentation showing a link between the nickname of the JUTC to these allegations.

a. International Lesbian and Gay Association, “Slain Jamaican Gay Leader Honoured in London,” (23 June 2004) online:

<http://www.ilga.org/news_results.asp?LanguageID=1&FileCategory=53&ZoneID=5&FileID=222>.

- *PM Patterson accused of responsibility for waves of Jamaican homophobic violence*

In response to the murder of Jamaican LGBT activist Brian Williamson, UK LGBT activist Peter Tatchell accuses PM P.J. Patterson of sharing in responsibility for wave of homophobic violence in Jamaica.

b. DW v. Secretary of State for the Home Department CG [2005] UKAIT 00168, online: <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/46836aa80.pdf>>.

- *PM Patterson vows to uphold Jamaica’s sodomy laws*
- *PM Patterson denounces allegations of homosexuality as vulgar abuse*

Para. 50: "Prime Minister P J Patterson has made it clear that his government has no intention of repealing Section 76 of the OAPA (Offences against the Person Act). In 2000, Patterson declared at a People's National Party (PNP) Conference in Kingston that the laws relating to homosexuality would never be repealed while he was Prime Minister. Mr Patterson in June 2001 found it necessary to declare his sexuality to the nation. "My credentials as a life long heterosexual person are impeccable". Mr Patterson said, "anybody who tries to say otherwise is not just smearing but is engaging in vulgar abuse".

c. Richard Iton, *In Search of the Black Fantastic: Politics and Popular Culture in the Post-Civil Rights Era* (New York: Oxford UP, 2008). Available on Google Books.

- *Use of allegations of homosexuality by political opponents as a means of discredited PM Patterson*

“During the campaign leading up to the 2002 national elections, Edward Seaga selected as one of his unofficial campaign songs T.O.K.’s “Chi Chi Man,” a song whose chorus (“Fire med we burn them”) implicitly called for the incineration of homosexuals (for the public record, a group member suggested that a “chi chi man is a person who represents



the negative and also corruption”). In the spirit of the lyrics, Seaga took to holding a light in the air during his rallies, exploiting the allegations and rumors that his opponent, then prime minister P.J. Patterson, was homosexual. This implicit gay-baiting provoked Patterson, a divorced father, to state publicly that his ‘credentials as a lifelong heterosexual person [were] . . . impeccable.’”

See also: Mark Riley, “Patterson No Chi Chi Man” *EURWeb* (21 June 2001) online: <<http://www.eurweb.com/story/eur2990.cfm>>.

Question #2: Is there a perceived link between homosexuality, the JUTC, and its employees?

There may be a perceived link between the JUTC, its employees, and homosexuality. In a speech, MP Smith attributed the economic woes of the JUTC to homosexual influence. There are references to JUTC drivers as Chi-Chi Bus Drivers. However, some sources state that the name originates in the sound made by the bus’s doors.

a. “Homosexuals Responsible for Crime and Bad Roads in Jamaica (Video of Jamaican Politician Lashing Out,” *Kingston State of Mind* (12 February 2009) online: <<http://duttybwoy.wordpress.com/2009/02/12/homosexuals-responsible-for-crime-and-bad-roads-in-jamaica-video-of-jamaica-politician/>>.

- *Video documents MP Ernest Smith attributing the economic woes of the JUTC to homosexuality*

“Homosexuals are also responsible for the Jamaican dollar sliding off a cliff, banning “dagging”, motor vehicle accidents, bad roads and the many layoffs in Jamaica due to the “world economic crisis”, Air Jamaica’s soaring debt, JUTC in the red and the recent out break of Malaria.”

**NB: This is from a blog. Given the time constraints, SOGI has been unable to provide a more authoritative source. The blog does, however, contain the video of MP Smith attributing the failures of the JUTC to homosexuality.

b. P. Hart, “Ah . . . The Memories of JOS,” *Jamaican Culture* (20 March 2008) online: <http://www.jamaicans.com/culture/articles_culture/memoriesofJOS.shtml>.

- *Blogger claims nickname “chi chi bus” derives from sound of closing bus doors and predates association between chi chi and homosexuality*

“Jamaica Omnibus Service or Chi Chi bus as they were called, probably due to the sound heard when the doors were being closed. Needless to say, this was before the name “chi chi” took on a whole other meaning.”



c. “Problems with the JUTC bus drivers,” *Jamaica Gleaner* (16 March 2005) online: <<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20050316/letters/letters2.html>>.

- *In letter of complaint concerning the dangerous driving of JUTC bus drivers, girl refers to JUTC drivers as Chi Chi men*

“These buses drive so recklessly. The problem is the same drivers that used to drive the coasters fast and carelessly are the same drivers that they employ to drive these 'chi-chi' buses. I personally rather be stranded than take one. Every driver on the road always gives them 'blighs' and so on, because all you hear is "u better gi dem way cuz dem chi-chi bus man ya nuh ramp". Every road driver personally knows this. I commute every day from St. Thomas to Kingston for school and as far as the eye can see, coasters are better and safer to travel on.”

d. Anonymous Blog Post, *The Reggae Boyz Forum*, (4 April 2002) online: <<http://www.thereggaeboyz.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/ubb/showflat/Number/11016/page/548>>.

- *Blog quotes newspaper article referring to JUTC driver as Chi Chi Bus Driver*
- *Newspaper denies that use of term chi chi referred to the sexuality of this individual driver but asserts that the term is used with regard to the JUTC in general*

“The term chi chi, as used in yesterday's STAR headline, was not intended to reflect in any way on the driver or the JUTC and its employees.

The JUTC buses are popularly known as chi chi buses, and the headline was used in this context.

THE STAR empathises with the family of Special Constable Wilfred Gayle, and deplors the lawlessness and barbarity of the circumstances under which he was killed.

We also have the utmost respect for the work being done by the bus company and appreciate the difficult and sometimes treacherous conditions under which the employees must operate. “

As such, we regret any hurt the headline might have caused.”

*NB: We cannot find a link to the article itself. It might be worthwhile to contact the *Jamaica Star* directly.

(e) “Daily Log,” *The Mad Bull's Blog*, (6 April 2002) online: <http://madbull4.tripod.com/mb_blog/2002_03_31_archive.html>.



- *Blog describes references in the Jamaica Star to JUTC drivers as Chi Chi Bus drivers in headline*
- *Blog describes threats by JUTC drivers to strike in response*

“Talk about putting your foot in your mouth! The Star Newspaper printed their version of the accident-murder that I blogged about yesterday. Nothing wrong with that, right? Unfortunately, they ran it under the headline "**Chi-Chi Bus Driver Killed!**!" Can you imagine how his family felt?!?! For those of you who don't understand, let me explain. The term "**chi chi**" has taken on **mega-negative connotations** here. Did I mention before this that Jamaica is an extremely homophobic society? Well it is. Long ago, buses such as those used by the J.U.T.C. used to be called "**chi-chi buses**", some say because of the sound the loud hydraulic brakes made. I am not familiar with the term being used in this way currently.

“More recently, the term "**chi chi man**" has come to mean a **homosexual man**. Now it seems to me... and to a bunch of other people, apparently... that some fools at the Star Newspaper decided use this odd happenstance to come up with a sensational headline... "**Chi-Chi Bus Driver Killed!**!", as the driver was driving a so-called "chi chi bus". Well, no one thought it was funny. The J.U.T.C. bus drivers withdrew their services (read strike) for the day, stranding many bus takers all over the city. They did this because of the Star headline, which they felt was obnoxious, and which they felt called the sexuality of the bus driver into question, and which cast some kind of shadow of homosexuality upon them all (this last bit was really stretched in my opinion). The other reason they withdrew their services was that they wanted additional security measures put in place for their own protection... They are now back on the road, because the Minister of Transport spoke with them and, I believe, promised to put some additional security measures in place.

“But what of the fools at the Star, you ask? Well, I hear they suspended two employees over it. Personally, I think that someone high up in the organisation should be punished for this. I mean, they all must have known that the headline was going out on the road as it did, and nobody did anything to stop it. They seem to have adjusted the headline on the 'net, and they published an apology (see the extreme right hand side of the webpage...). Still, that was a major gaffe for such a well-thought of company. Anyway, **mi gaan!** (I got to go now, see you later).”

*NB: We cannot find a link to the article itself. It might be worthwhile to contact the *Jamaica Star* directly.

Question #3: News reports concerning the shooting of Howyie Campbell in front of his house on Old Harbour Road, Spanish Town, St. Catherines



We could not find any news reports of the shooting of a Howyie Campbell but references to Campbells being shot on Old Harbour Road.

Question #4: Reports Concerning 1994-95 strike by JUTC workers in response to being called Chi Chi men

Although we couldn't find any reports of a 1994-95 strike, we were able to find a blog referring to threats by JUTC operators to strike in response to an article in the *Jamaica Star* calling drivers Chi Chi Bus Drivers.

(a) "Daily Log," *The Mad Bull's Blog*, (6 April 2002) online:
<http://madbull4.tripod.com/mb_blog/2002_03_31_archive.html>.

- *Blog describes references in the Jamaica Star to JUTC drivers as Chi Chi Bus drivers in headline*
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"Talk about putting your foot in your mouth! The Star Newspaper printed their version of the accident-murder that I blogged about yesterday. Nothing wrong with that, right? Unfortunately, they ran it under the headline "**Chi-Chi Bus Driver Killed!**"! Can you imagine how his family felt?!?! For those of you who don't understand, let me explain. The term "**chi chi**" has taken on **mega-negative connotations** here. Did I mention before this that Jamaica is an extremely homophobic society? Well it is. Long ago, buses such as those used by the J.U.T.C. used to be called "**chi-chi buses**", some say because of the sound the loud hydraulic brakes made. I am not familiar with the term being used in this way currently.

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*NB: We cannot find a link to the article itself. It might be worthwhile to contact the *Jamaica Star* directly.

Question #5: Violence against JUTC employees including attack on Mountain View Avenue Driver and on Winston Bungles

Although there are reports of violence against JUTC employees, the motive for this violence, based on the sources we've consulted, does not appear to have been homophobic.

a. “Who Killed JUTC Boss?,” *Jamaica Observer* (29 June 2008) online: <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/html/20080628T020000-0500_137241_OBS_WHO_KILLED_JUTC_BOSS_.asp>.

- *Murder of JUTC chairman linked to gang's effort to control local transportation market*

“Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) chairman Douglas Chambers' murder was supposedly ordered and carried out by members of Spanish Town's notorious Klansman gang, highly reliable sources in that violence-plagued town have told the Sunday Observer . . .

“Since the early 1990s when it was formed, the Klansman gang has unleashed terror on Spanish Town and has fought deadly street battles with its arch rival, the One Order gang, which supports the ruling Jamaica Labour Party.

“Both gangs have benefitted from a lucrative extortion racket in the town and have fought for control of the bus park where they force bus and taxi operators to pay them a fee.”

b. “Buses to roll again down Mountain View,” *Jamaica Gleaner* (25 August 2005) online: <<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20020825/news/news1.html>>.

- *Dispute between JUTC driver and passenger leads to murder of driver and temporary withdrawal of services from area*



“JUTC buses were withdrawn from the area following a controversial incident last weekend in which a bus driver was attacked, stabbed and killed by a mob along Mountain View Avenue.

Allegations are that the driver and a passenger were involved in an argument, which later escalated and took a turn for the worse. Residents of Back Bush accused the deceased of adding fuel to fire when the argument got heated.

Hundreds of JUTC workers took to the streets in protest last Monday, demanding justice for the death of their colleagues.

The bus service was suspended and the following day buses plying the Mountain View Avenue route refused go beyond the boundaries of Deanery Avenue and Windward Road.”

c. **“Bus Driver Shot Dead,” *GoLocal Jamaica Community online*: <<http://www.golocaljamaica.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?action=print;num=1159350595>>.**

- *Murder of Bus driver*

A 34 year-old bus driver was shot and killed by unknown assailant/s at Waltham Park Road, Kingston 10 last night. Dead is Phillip Christopher Prince otherwise called "Brownman" of Waterford, St. Catherine. Reports from the CCN's Metro Officer are that about 7:45 p.m., explosions were heard in the area. On investigation Mr. Prince was found suffering from gunshot wounds beside a Toyota Hiace minibus. The police were alerted and he was assisted to the Kingston Public Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Half Way Tree Police are investigating.

Question #6: Reports on May 23, 2007 assault on man presumed to be gay

None.