



Public Relations Unit

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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 FOREIGN NATIONALS CONVICTED IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT

In Magistrate's Court #9 twenty one (21) foreign nationals were arraigned before Acting Chief Magistrate Roberto Reckley, for various immigration offences.

On Thursday 14th September 2023, on the charge of **Overstaying**; three (3) Haitian nationals pled guilty and were convicted and fined **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS), **\$1,500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at (BDOCS), and **\$1,500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at (BDOCS), respectively. In addition to the charge of Overstaying, the later Haitian national also pled guilty to the charge of **Knowingly Attempting to Mislead an Immigration Officer** and was convicted and fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at (BDOCS), sentencing to run concurrently. One (1) Columbian national pled guilty and was convicted and fined **\$1,000.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at (BDOCS).

Additionally, on the charge of **Illegal Landing** one (1) American and two (2) Haitian nationals pled guilty, and were convicted and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (BDOCS).

On Tuesday 12th September 2023, one (1) Sri Lankan resident pled not guilty to the charge of **Engaging in Gainful Occupation**, and was granted **\$2,000.00** bail and the case adjourned to 6th November, 2023.

On the charge of **Illegal Landing**; seven (7) Haitian nationals pled guilty and were convicted and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at the (BDOCS), and **one** convicted and fined **\$300.00** and serve **two months** at (BDOCS) or, in default of payment, serve an additional **two month** at (BDOCS). One (1) Cuban national pled guilty and was convicted and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (BDOCS).

Further, to the charge of **Overstaying**; one (1) Jamaican national pled guilty and was convicted and fined **\$300.00** or, in default of payment, serve **two months** at (BDOCS). One (1) Dominican national pled guilty and was discharged. Three (3) Haitian nationals pled guilty; **two** were convicted and fined **\$500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **one month** at (BDOCS) and **one** **\$1,500.00** or, in default of payment, serve **three months** at (BDOCS).

Upon payment of all fines and completion of sentences, all migrants were ordered to be turned over to the Department of Immigration for deportation.

The public is reminded that the Department is committed to executing our mandate to ensure compliance with the Statute Laws of our country.

For more information, call the Public Relations Unit at **1-242-322-7530**, visit our website at **www.immigration.gov.bs**, or call our Investigation hotlines (anonymously) at **1-242-604-0249**, **1-242-604-0171-2** or **1-242-604-0196**.

End.

Mission Statement: *To regulate the movement of people across the borders of The Bahamas so as to ensure the security, facilitate economic advancement and promote the harmonious social development of The Bahamas through the collaborative efforts of responsible government and non-government agencies both nationally and internationally*