



Country Case Studies

BARBADOS

Case Study Report Barbados

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INTRODUCTION

This report was developed within the framework of the “Program on Security Sector Reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean” by the Security and Citizenship Program of the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Chile Office. This project seeks to comparatively analyze reforms in the Security Sector of twenty countries in the region.

In addition to the assessment that will be realized in the first year of the program, we are interested in offering a description of the principal characteristics of the Security Sector in each of the countries involved.

This report is dedicated to the case of **Barbados**. It considers the following four key elements: (i) the political and socioeconomic context of the country, with the aim of providing a portrait of the current situation; (ii) characteristics and recent changes in the **Defence Sector**, focusing on institutionalization, civilian oversight, external control, general attributes of the Barbados Defence Force, the Defence budget, and the reform process; (iii) the **Public Security Sector** with regard to the institutional setting, the Royal Barbados Police Force, as well as the reform and modernization process; (iv) and the **intelligence** organizations of the sector.

It was produced by means of publicly accessible secondary resources, such as legal documents, statistics, official websites, among other publications. **Carsten-Andreas Schulz**, intern at FLACSO-Chile, was responsible for writing this report.

We are confident that our effort will contribute to progress in analysis, academic debate, and public policy-making in Barbados. We also hope that this report will help to shed light on a fundamental issue in the ongoing democratization process in Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, we would like to express our thanks to the Open Society Institute for its financial support, as well as the Organization of American States for its sponsorship.

Lucía Dammert
Program on Security and Citizenship
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Santiago, October 2006

I. POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT

Barbados has an estimated population of 280,000 and is the easternmost island of the Caribbean, situated in the Atlantic Ocean northeast of Trinidad and Tobago and east of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is one of the most developed countries in the Western Hemisphere, characterized by a high standard of living, high quality educational system, and stable macroeconomic conditions.

It is an independent nation with a parliamentary democracy, which, as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, recognizes the British monarch Queen Elizabeth II as its Head of State. She appoints a Barbadian as her vice-regal representative, the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister. In 2006, the Governor General of Barbados was Clifford Husbands. He succeeded Nita Barrow in 1996, the first woman holding this position. She was Governor General from 1990 until her death in 1995.

Barbados first began to be colonized in 1627 and remained a British colony until Independence. Similar to other Caribbean islands, the colonial ruler shipped slaves to its New World possession for the purpose of working in the local plantation economy, which was devoted primarily to sugar cane. This caused a rapid change in the ethnic composition of the island, wherein blacks came to outnumber whites by a significant margin. Barbados possessed some political autonomy and self-government. For example, it had its own assembly by 1639, and free blacks were allowed to vote in elections from 1831 onwards. However, property requirements still formed an obstacle and prevented the majority of the population from participating, even after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire two years later. Internal self-governance was granted to Barbados in 1961 during its membership in the Federation of the West Indies, and Independence was finally attained on November 30, 1966. The country inherited the traditions of Common Law and a Westminster-style government, with the Prime Minister as Head of Government and the Cabinet as “the principal instrument of policy [...] with the general direction and control for the government of Barbados”. The Cabinet consists of at least five Members who are collectively responsible to Parliament. Barbados is composed of a bicameral Parliament. The Senate is composed of 21 members, who are appointed by the Governor General, while elections to the House of Assembly must be held within a five-year term. The last election was held on May 21, 2003, and resulted in the re-election of Owen Arthur from the Barbados Labour Party [BLP]. The Opposition is led by David Thompson, whose Democratic Labour Party [DLP] holds 7 of the 30 seats in the Lower House. Barbados maintains an adversarial system of law, and has replaced the Privy Council with the Caribbean Court of Justice [CCJ] as its final appellate court.

The island state outperforms the other Windward Islands¹ in terms of economic performance and development, ranking 30th in the 2005 Human Development Report (see Appendix for further socioeconomic indicators). Barbados is a full member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market [CARICOM]. It is also economically linked with the countries of the Eastern Caribbean by virtue of its function as a hub for international trade. Traditionally, its economy was largely based on the cultivation of sugarcane. However, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national income has declined over the years. Diversification of the economy has led to the establishment of an important tourism sector, light manufacturing and, more recently, offshore financial services. The economy has recovered from the setbacks following the events of September 11, 2001, and has since expanded steadily (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005, p. 284). In this context, the per capita GDP totaled US\$ 10,849.93 in 2005, whilst inflation remained between 0.2 and 3.2 percent during this period (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, n.d.).

The primary governmental institutions responsible for security on the island are the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force, which includes the Coast Guard. They are supported by the Immigration Department and the Customs Department in their duties. The structure of crime in Barbados is less violent than, for example, Jamaica or Trinidad, and aggregate crime rates are stable. However, in the face of the island's involvement in the transnational shipment of drugs, violent crime has become more frequent over the last 25 years (National Commission on Law and Order, 2004). Barbados has also been involved in a territorial dispute with Trinidad and Tobago over maritime boundaries in the past, but the issue has been subject to international arbitration.

In terms of foreign military presence in Barbados, it is important to note that even though there are no foreign military bases stationed on the island, Barbados provides the headquarters for the Regional Security System [RSS], as well as a large part of its funding. Furthermore, there are strong linkages between the security sector and the UK through the provision of police and military training.

¹ The Windward Islands of the Caribbean are those islands that form the southern group of the Lesser Antilles. These include Martinique (French), St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

II. THE DEFENCE SECTOR

The Barbados Defence Force [BDF] was established in 1978 under the government of Prime Minister Tom Adams. Its formation was highly controversial, and was primarily justified by the need to provide the micro-state with the means of facing threats of destabilization caused by external and internal forces (Library of Congress, 1987). Currently, the Defence sector can be described as consisting of the Minister with responsibilities for Defence (in this case the Prime Minister), the Ministry of Defence and Security, the Barbados Defence Board, and the BDF. The Constitution of Barbados of 1966 and the Barbados Defence Act of 1979, Chapter 159 of the Laws of Barbados, provide the legal framework and constitute the legal bases for the existence and operations of the BDF.

Before and in the years immediately following Independence, the West Indian territories were relatively stable due to the efforts and protection of Britain. However, after its withdrawal from the region, the Caribbean was shaken by several uprisings and coups conducted by small extremist groups. Those events of the 1970s highlighted the vulnerability of the small island state and provided justification for establishing armed forces in Barbados and the sub-region. While the most notable event of this nature was the coup d'état in Grenada in March 1979, Barbados also faced two mercenary plots in 1976 and 1978. Although neither presented a serious threat to the democratic regime, these events provoked a discussion of the potential of subversive forces to destabilize the region. The first challenge to the recently formed forces came in September 1979 when the BDF intervened in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to counter a militant Marxist insurgency conducted by the People's Revolutionary Government [PRG] of Grenada. This provided the Barbadian government a legitimization of its policy (Phillips, 1990). A further step towards the "militarization of the Eastern Caribbean" occurred when the Adams administration called for the creation of a collective security pact, which led to the formation of the Regional Security System [RSS].

In terms of international assistance and cooperation, Barbados provides training to, and receives training from, the defence forces of various other countries. BDF personnel are trained by the USA, Britain and Canada, while Barbadian instructors train paramilitary troops from other countries. Important in this regard is the RSS, given that Barbados holds a prominent position within the organization. The RSS consists of the nations of Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (which together make up the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS]), and Barbados (which is the only non-OECS member of the RSS). The RSS began as an agreement for "mutual assistance on request" without legal status, but later acquired organizational status in March 1996. It is a hybrid organization "in that its security forces comprise both Military and Police personnel who remain under the command of their respective Chiefs" (Regional Security System, n.d.). The organization was originally supposed to provide regional security, as well as disaster

control, search-and rescue missions, customs and immigration control, and protection of the member states' Exclusive Economic Zones [EEZs]. Presently, however, the organization is primarily charged with counter-narcotics operations and crime fighting (Regional Security System, n.d.). Barbados contributes 40% of the funds for the RSS and is also the site of the organization's headquarters (Sammonds, 2000). Since its foundation, the system has been a major recipient of foreign military aid to the region, primarily from the USA (Phillips, 1990). Key components of the system are the Coast Guard and the paramilitary Special Service Units [SSU].

2.1 Institutionalization of the Defence Sector

There have been no coup attempts or threats by the BDF. In fact, Defence and National Security fall within the sphere of responsibility of the Prime Minister, who exercises authority via the chairmanship of the Defence Board. The Prime Minister, like all members of Cabinet, is always a civilian, given that members of the armed or police forces are excluded from being Members of the Houses of Parliament. As the Defence Act explains:

"[t]he Chief of Staff of the Barbados Defence Force is, subject to the directions of the Governor-General, responsible for the operational use of the Force, but the Prime Minister may, where no directions have been given by the Governor-General, give to the Chief of Staff directions with respect to the operational use of the Barbados Defence Force in Barbados for the purposes of maintaining and securing public order and public safety, as the Prime Minister thinks fit; and the Chief of Staff shall comply with those directions" (II, 9 (2)).

On the administrative level, the BDF reports to the Ministry of Defence and Security, which is headed by a Permanent Secretary. In 2006, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry is Captain Randolph Straughn.

2.2 Civilian Oversight

With respect to the system of external control over the armed forces, it is important to note that the Constitution prohibits members of the armed forces from being appointed as Senators (Constitution of Barbados, V, 38 (2) (ii)) or elected as Members of the House of Assembly (V, 44 (2) (b)). This means that since the Prime Minister, whose portfolio includes Defence matters, has to hold a seat in the House of Assembly (VI, 65 (1)), control over the BDF lies in the hands of a civilian. However, the Constitution makes no provisions for restrictions on the right to vote of members of the armed forces.

With regard to the selection of the operational command, the Barbados Defence Act states that the Governor General has the power to appoint and remove the Chief of Staff "acting in accordance with the advice of the Defence Board" (Barbados Defence Act,

VIII, 169). It is also the Defence Board which is responsible for discipline in the BDF (II, 9 (1)).

The budgets of both BDF and RSS are the subject of Cabinet debates, although these debates are not released to the public

2.3 Armed Forces

The BDF is a battalion size organization with approximately 600 members. In command of the BDF operations is the Chief of Staff, who is located at the headquarters of St. Anne's Fort. In accordance with the Barbados Defence Act, the BDF is "a body of the Majesty's forces to be known as the Barbados Defence consisting of (a) a regular Force; (b) reserve force to be known as the Barbados Defence Force Reserve; and (c) a Cadet Force" (I, 4). It is comprised of the land-based Barbados Regiment including regular and reserve forces, the Barbados Cadet Corps, and the Coast Guard, which forms the maritime wing.

Regarding the force's duties and functions, the Defence Act states: "[t]he Barbados Defence Force is responsible for the defence of Barbados and such other duties as the Defence Board determines" (I, 5). As such, the armed forces are not only responsible for national security, but can also be called on in times of emergency. Additionally, the BDF is charged with supplementary duties to the Royal Barbados Police Force. Cooperation occurs on a regular basis, such as in the case of collaboration between the Coast Guard and the police. According to Sammonds, "the BDF is foremost a military organization but also assists the police in certain times such as the annual festival for the sugar harvest [...], with general public support. It also carries out community programs, such as clean-ups for the aged or blind, and participates in regional security programs" (Sammonds, 2000). In the face of an increase in cases in which the BDF has been employed internally, some have argued that a restriction would be desirable and that a protocol to govern cooperation should be established (National Commission on Law and Order, 2004).

In general, command, administration and discipline, as well as decisions on the rank structure, are conducted by the Barbados Defence Board. According to the Defence Act:

"[t]he members of the Defence Board are (a) the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairman, ex officio; (b) such other Minister as the Prime Minister appoints; (c) the Chief of Staff, ex officio; and (d) the Permanent Secretary, Defence and Security ex officio, or such other public officer as the Prime Minister designates" (II, 10)

Members of the BDF are subject to both military and civil law (Barbados Defence Act, V, 127 (1)). Officers are selected by a commission board consisting of the Chief of Staff,

the Chairman of the Public Services Commission², and an individual nominated by the Defence Board (Belize Defence Act, III, 13 (1)). Recruitment into the BDF is done on a purely voluntary basis, without any conscription. Applicants for enlistment to the regular force must be at least 18 years old. However, an issue that has been raised frequently is the possibility under the Barbados Defence Act (159, 19 (2)) of allowing individuals under the age of 18 to enlist on the condition that they have the consent of their legal guardian. The term of enlistment is 12 years, which can be partially served in the reserve (IV, 20). It is possible to prolong service, but it cannot exceed 22 years in total (IV, 21).

2.4 Reforms and Modernization

The BDF has expressed an interest in transforming itself into a more transparent organization by launching a web-site, arranging open days, and taking other measures to improve its relationship with other state agencies and the public (Sammonds, 2000).

² The Constitution establishes a Public Services Commission, which consists of the Chairman and up to five additional members that are appointed by the Governor General (Constitution of Barbados, VIII, I, 90).

III. THE PUBLIC SECURITY SECTOR

The public security sector of Barbados consists of the Governor General “acting in accordance with the advice of the Police Service Commission” (Constitution of Barbados, VIII, I, 96 (1)), the Attorney General in his position as Minister responsible for public security, and the Royal Barbados Constabulary Force [RBCF].

The emerging law enforcement body of Barbados followed the steps of its British counterpart during its early years, in a pattern similar to that of other English-speaking Caribbean states. This was initially achieved by means of establishing “watches,” bodies of trained night-watchmen. Subsequently, due to the need for a more effective organization, the legislature passed an act under colonial rule that created a police force in 1835. The present institutionalization originated from the provisions made by the Police Act of 1908, but legal reformations of the police force have occurred since then through various acts. The most notable such act was the Police Act, which was passed five years before Independence in 1961. Today, this act, along with the Constitution, provides the legal basis of the public security sector.

There is a senior advisory board to the decision-maker responsible for public security in the form of the Police Service Commission. It is composed of no more than five members, who are “appointed by the Governor General, acting on the recommendation of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition”. Members of the Houses of Parliament and public officers are not entitled for appointment (Constitution of Barbados, VIII, I, 91).

The private security sector in Barbados is regulated by the Private Investigators and Security Guards Act, which also makes provisions for a board responsible for the consideration of applications for licenses. The Board reports to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Barbados is a member of the International Police Community [INTERPOL] and of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police [ACCP]. A special training site, the Regional Police Training Centre, used to be funded by the British government and staffed by British instructors. Training is now provided there to police officers from Barbados and other Commonwealth Caribbean states. Training for higher ranks takes place in the United Kingdom.

3.1 Civilian Oversight

The Commissioner of Police, who is in command of the police forces, is responsible to the Governor General “for the efficient administration and government of the Force and for the proper expenditure of all public moneys appropriated for the service thereof” (Barbados Police Act, II, 8). The power to appoint and dismiss police officers and constables

and to reduce their rank is vested in the Governor General (Barbados Police Act, II, 13 & IV, 26 (3) & IV, 28 (1)). The Constitution explains this when it states:

“the power to make appointments to offices in the Police Force and to remove and to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices, is hereby vested in the Governor General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Police Service Commission” (VIII, II, 96 (1)).

The Governor General can delegate the power to make appointments and to exercise disciplinary control in relation to police below the rank of Inspector to a member of the Police Service Commission or to a police officer of the rank of Superintendent or above (Constitution of Barbados, VIII, II, 97 (1)). The right to remove officers, however, cannot be delegated. In practice, the manning and disciplinary procedures are prerogatives of the Police Service Commission, in accordance with the Constitution and the Police Act.

a) Introduction

The RBPF is the primary law enforcement agency in Barbados, and under the general direction of the Attorney General. In 2006, Dale D. Marshall, who is also Minister of Home Affairs, holds this post. Operational control lies in the hands of the Commissioner of Police situated at the Central Police Station in Bridgetown. The Commissioner reports to the Governor General. As of 2005, this position was held by Darwin Dottin, appointed in 2003.

There are ten different ranks in the RBPF, which include: a) Commissioner of Police; b) Deputy Commissioner of Police; c) Assistant Commissioner of Police; d) Senior Superintendent; e) Superintendent; f) Assistant Superintendent; d) Inspector; e) Station Sergeant; f) Sergeant; and g) Constable. The career bracket is open, which means that it is theoretically possible for police officers to be promoted up to the rank of Commissioner during their career. Hence, the RBPF does not show the typical characteristics of a paramilitary force that typifies most police forces of the region. This can be attributed to the relative lack of violence in Barbados in comparison to other Caribbean countries. Nevertheless, the Police Act establishes the RBPF as a police force that has to perform military duties in defence of the island in addition to maintaining law and order (Barbados Police Act, II, 5). In general, officers of the RBPF perform their duties without wearing firearms, even though members of the Special Rapid Response Unit [RRU] are armed while patrolling.

The functions, duties and constraints of the forces are codified by the Barbados Police Act. It outlines the force's primary objectives by stating:

"The Force shall primarily be employed for (a) maintenance of law and order; (b) the preservation of peace; (c) the protection of life and property; (d) the prevention and detection of crime; and (e) the enforcement of laws and regulations with which it is charged" (Barbados Police Act, II, 4).

It continues:

"It shall be the duty of all members of the Force (a) to preserve the peace and prevent and detect crime and other contraventions of law; (b) apprehend and bring before a magistrate persons found committing any offence rendering them liable to arrest without warrant or whom they may reasonably suspect of having committed any such offence or who may be charged by any person with having committed any such offence; (c) to charge or cause to be charged before a magistrate and to prosecute persons reasonably suspected of having committed offences in the following cases (i) in all cases of offences where it is in the opinion of a gazetted police officer desirable in the public interest that the prosecution should be undertaken by the Force; and (ii) in any other case where an order to that effect is made by the Director of Public Prosecutions or the Commissioner; (d) to serve and execute at any time (including Sundays) all warrants which they may be directed by the competent authority to serve and execute; (e) to keep order in and within the precincts and in the vicinity of all courts during all sitting of courts; (f) to repress internal disturbance; (g) to defend Barbados against external aggression when called out for such purpose under section 5; and (h) generally to do and perform all the duties appertaining to the office of a constable" (Barbados Police Act, III, 19).

The manpower of the police force totaled 1,450 in 2006, including 200 special constables (Dilip, 2006). The first female police officers were recruited in 1950. Today, women are underrepresented in the force even though their rate is increasing (US State Department, 2006). Though it does not indicate the particular year or corresponding total manpower, the RBPF homepage states that there has been 1 female Superintendent, 3 Inspectors, 3 Station Sergeants, 20 Sergeants, and 115 Constables, primarily charged with duties relating to women, children and young people (Royal Barbados Police Force, 2005).

b) Organizational Structure

The police are divided into three territorial divisions: the Northern Division, the Southern Division, and the Bridgetown Division. In terms of functional separation, the force also consists of three countrywide divisions, all of which are headed by a Senior Superintendent. These include the Operations Support Division, the Administrative Support Division and the Criminal Investigations Division. The RBPF consists of the following

branches: the Criminal Investigations Division, Narcotics Section, Special Branch, Mobile Division, Mounted Branch, the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the Royal Barbados Police Force Band (Royal Barbados Police Force, 2005). The RRU's have also been formed to patrol in areas susceptible to petty crime, such as areas with high rates of tourism, and to react immediately to crimes (Sammonds, 2000).

The Special Constabulary is a permanent auxiliary to the regular police force. Its members, the special constables, serve 3-years terms and possess the same powers as the remainder of the police.

c) Recruitment Requirements and Formation

The RBPF consists of gazetted police officers and non-gazetted officers. Applicants to the police must be between 19 and 40 years of age. They may be up to 50 years old if they are applying for the position of Special Constable. Additional requirements are good health, good character and education. Applicants who meet these preconditions must participate in a selection process that is made up of interviews, a written assessment, an intelligence test, and physical, medical and psychological examinations. The requirements are set out by the Police Act, although details are to be worked out by the Governor General acting in accordance with the Police Service Commission (Barbados Police Act, IV, 24). Initial training is conducted at the Regional Police Training Center located near Grantley Adams International Airport, and lasts 22 weeks for Police Constables and 7 weeks for Special Constables (Royal Barbados Police Force, 2005). Following training, all constables must pass a probation period of two years (Barbados Police Act, IV, 25 (1)).

d) Internal Control

In practice, the Police Service Commission, the Commissioner of Police, and the Office of Professional Responsibility [OPR] are all involved in the disciplinary procedure. Under constitutional law, this power is vested in the Governor General, who can delegate this prerogative (with the exception of removals) to a member or several members of the Police Service Commission. If the procedure involves a police officer below the rank of Inspector, this prerogative can be delegated to an officer not below the rank of Superintendent (Constitution of Barbados, VIII, 2, 97 (1)). When a disciplinary measure has been issued by a delegate, the officer concerned can apply for the case to be transferred to the Governor General. Officers involved can also appeal to the Caribbean Court of Justice in cases in which penalties or removals have been pronounced (VIII, 2, 98 (1)). Moreover, police officers and constables of the RBPF are subject to the Police Force Disciplinary Code introduced to the Police Act in 1998. Thought has also been given to abuse of authority, such as excess use of force, and to reducing cases of corruption, by making restrictions against lending money or accepting presents from colleagues (Belize Police Act, V, 32A (1)). Offences against the Disciplinary Code, such as accusations of misconduct, are investigated by the Office of Professional Responsibility [OPR]. The OPR, the former

Complaints and Discipline Department, is the internal discipline department and is headed by a superintendent. Sanctions in turn are applied by either the Commissioner of the Police or the Police Service Commission (Belize Police Act, V, 34). Officers charged have the right to legal representation during the disciplinary procedure.

3.2 External Control

Regarding the role of the armed forces, the RBPF has not mobilized to pressure the government into acceding to demands. According to the legal framework, the roles of the two security services, the BDF and the RBPF, are interconnected. This is to say that both institutions can be called out in the defence of Barbados. The BPD in turn participates in patrolling and provides assistance in combating drug trafficking. The Coast Guard, which is the maritime wing of the BDF, holds a central position in this context. This form of assistance or cooperation is well institutionalized, although it has also been the subject of criticism.

A parliamentary committee on law and order has been established to improve the participation of the legislature in the control and scrutiny of the public security sector. This committee is staffed by civilians because, according to the Constitution, members of the police force or “any class of person that is comprised in any such force,” as in the case of members of the armed forces, cannot be members of the House of Representatives or Senate.

In addition to the Office of Professional Responsibility within the police force, there exists an external body that deals with complaints made against members of the RBPF. The Police Complaints Authority [PCA] is an independent government agency under the direction of the Attorney General, whose duties are to investigate cases in which police officers or constables have injured or killed a person, or other cases that have been directed to it by the Commissioner of Police (Barbados Police Complaints Authority Act, 7, (1)). It consists of 5 members: 2 appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister; 1 appointed by the Governor General on his own discretion; 1 former gazetted police officer; and the Head of the Civil Service (Barbados Police Complaints Authority Act, Schedule, 1). The PCA directs its completed reports to the Commissioner, or, in cases of criminal offences, to the Director of Public Prosecutions (Barbados Police Complaints Authority Act, 10).

3.3 Reforms and Modernization

In the regional context, the RBPF is considered efficient. However, while it enjoys a positive reputation, there are still concerns related to the excessive use of force. This issue dates back to the national emancipation process and the years following Independence. “The majority of complaints against the police alleged unprofessional conduct and beating or assault. Police regularly were accused of beating suspects to obtain confessions, and

suspects often recanted their confessions during their trial. There were numerous cases where the only evidence against the accused was a confession" (US State Department, 2006). This problem has been addressed by a further "democratization" of the RBPF in the sense of increasing police accountability and strengthening community policing.

A bill to establish an independent complaints body was introduced in October, 2001, and finally led to the formation of the PCA, which began to operate in 2004. According to the U.S State Department, however, there is a distinctive lack of information in relation to its operation (2006). Similarly, the Report of the National Commission on Law and Order recommends "immediate steps to be taken to put into operation the independent Police Complaints Authority" (2004).

The RBPF has also begun various programs to improve its relationship with the public, most of which aim to reduce burglary. For instance, the force supports neighborhood watch groups by providing training and consultation, as well as offering to mark valuable property. To reduce juvenile crime, the RBPF has introduced a juvenile liaison scheme. In this program, potential offenders receive guidance and juvenile delinquents, with the consent of the complainant, can be cautioned rather than prosecuted. The aim of this policy is to reduce delinquency and prevent juveniles from coming into contact with the penal system (Royal Barbados Police Force, 2005).

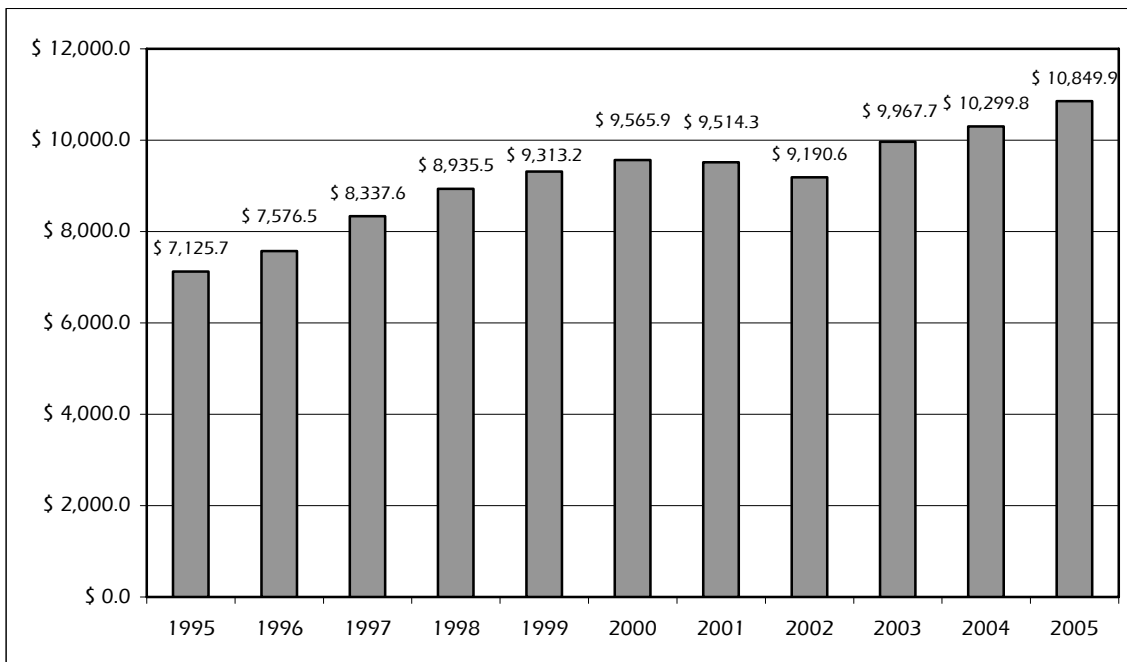
Other recommendations by the Commission on Law and Order, which was established as mandated by CARCOM Heads of Governments in July 2002, include the further strengthening of police accountability, community policing programs, and an increase in technical capabilities and human resources (National Commission on Law and Order, 2004).

IV. INTELLIGENCE

There is no independent intelligence agency in Barbados. Intelligence gathering is carried out by units or divisions within the RBPF or the BDF.

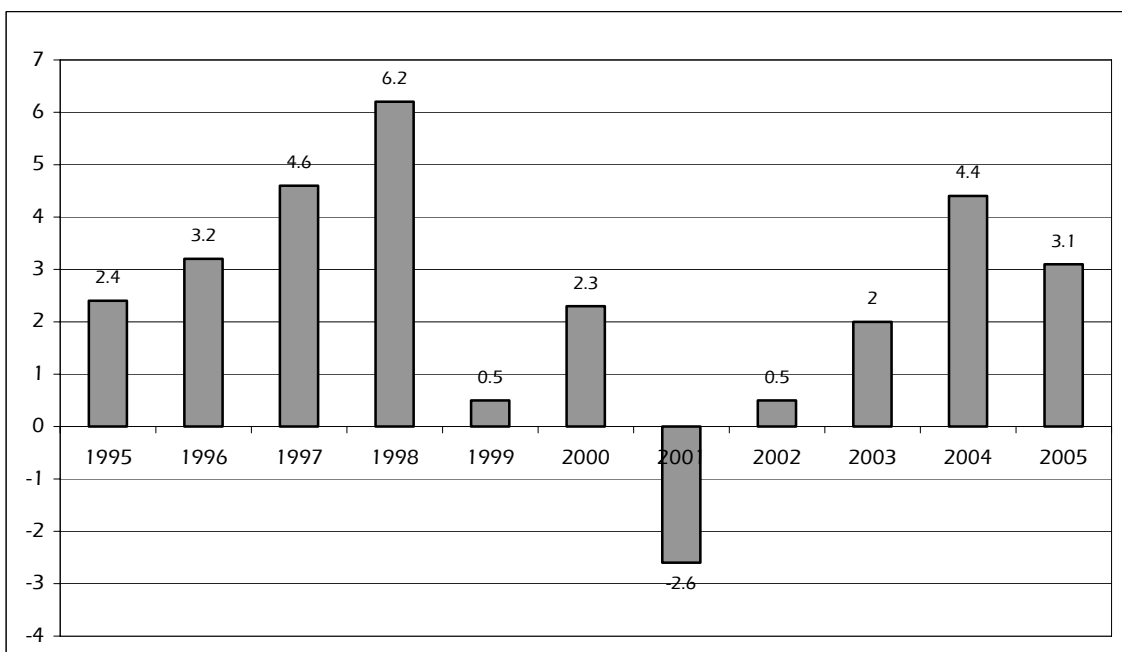
V. APPENDIX

Illustration 1: GDP per capita, current prices (US\$)



(International Monetary Fund, 2005)

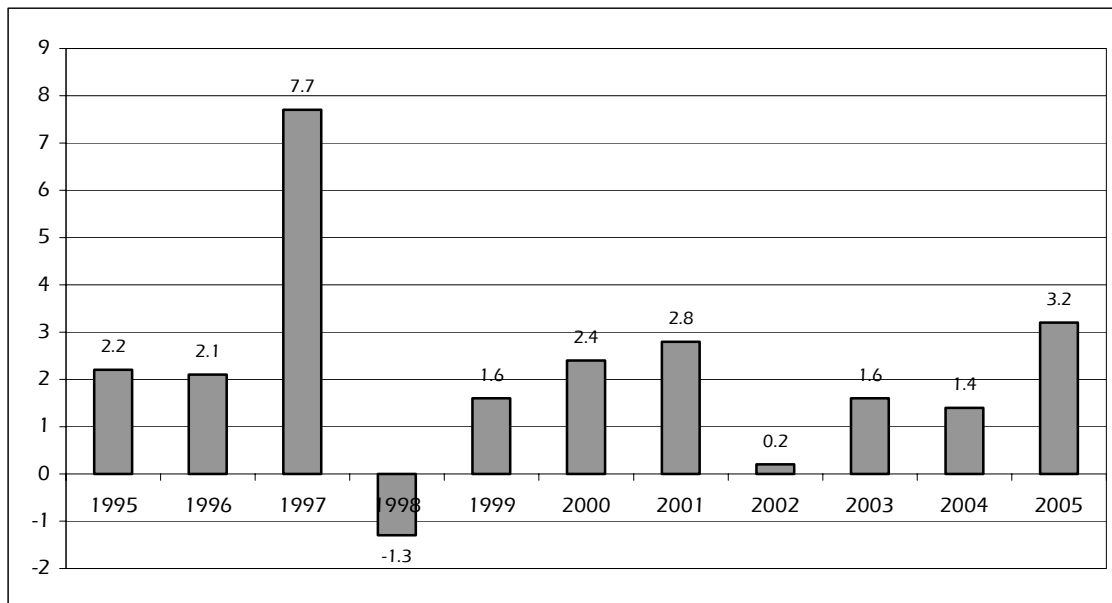
Illustration 2: GDP, constant prices, annual percent change



(International Monetary Fund, 2005)

(In

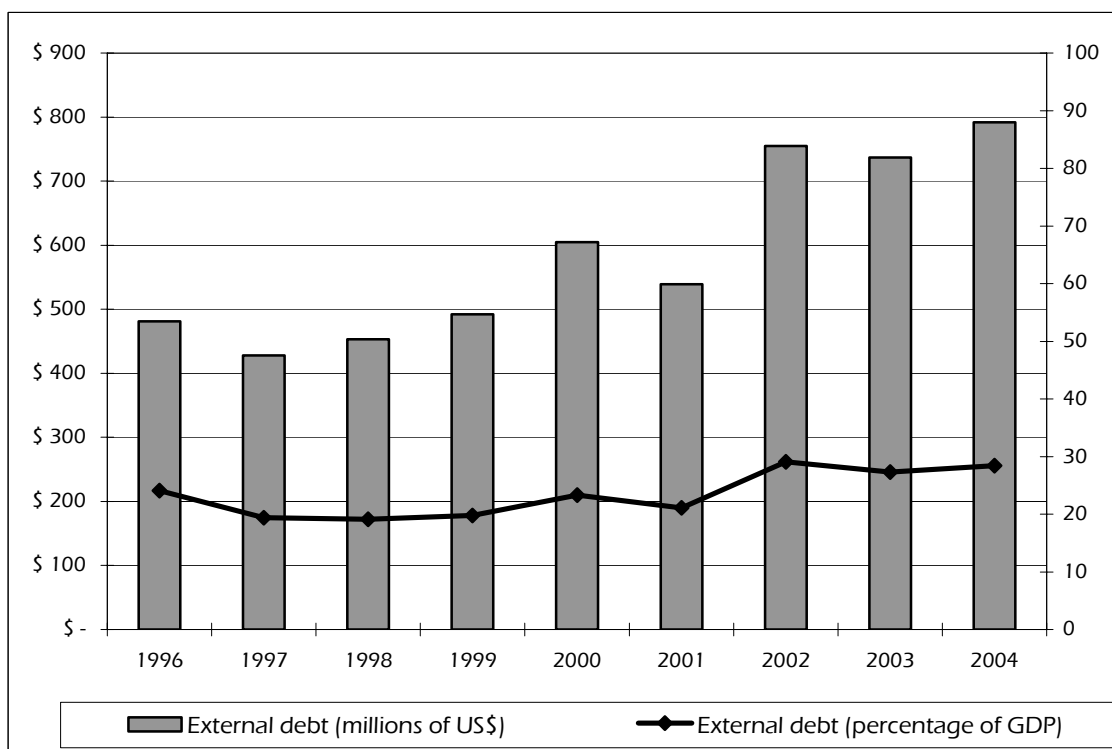
Illustration 3: Inflation, annual percent change



International Monetary Fund, 2005)

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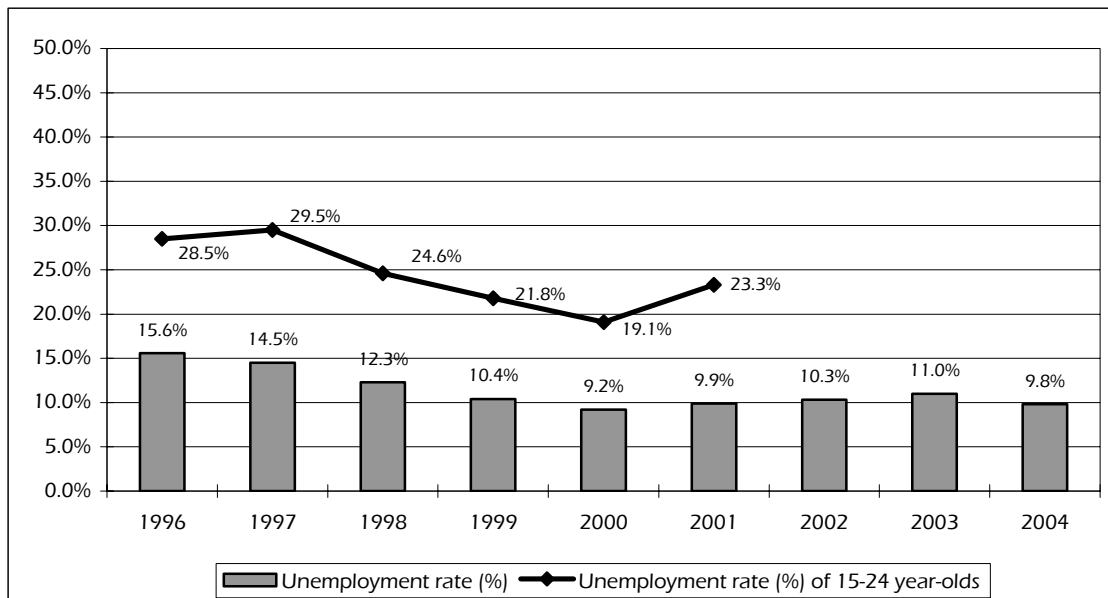
Illustration 4: External Debt



conomic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005, p. 282)

(Ec

Illustration 5: Unemployment rate (%)



(Ec

onomic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2005, p. 282, n.d.)

Table 1: Social indicators

- a.) Estimated Population in July 2006: 279,912 (Central Intelligence Agency, 2006)
- b.) Ethnic groups: black 90%, white 4%, Asian and mixed 6% (Central Intelligence Agency, 2006)
- c.) Migration

Period	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010
Net migration rate	-0.96	-0.95	-0.93	-0.92

(Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, n.d.)

- d.) HDI: 30/ 0.878 (UN Development Program, 2005)
- e.) Poverty: NA
- f.) Gini Index: NA
- g.) Education and Literacy
 - Years of compulsory education: 12 (1999), 11 (2000-present) (UIS, 2005)
 - Adult literacy rate (% ages 15 and above): 99.4 (1990); 99.7 (2003) (UN Development Program, 2005)

Youth literacy rate (% ages 15-24): 99.8 (1990); 99.8 (2003)
Net primary enrolment ratio (%): 80 (1990/91); 100 (2002/03)
Net secondary enrolment ratio (%): ... (1990/91) 90 (2002/03)

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

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