



International Democracy Union (IDU) Expresses Concern Over Recent Developments in the Commonwealth of Dominica

The International Democracy Union (IDU) wishes to express its deep concern regarding recent events in the Commonwealth of Dominica that have significant implications for the nation's democratic principles, transparency, and the rule of law.

Arrests of Opposition Members

Reports indicate that several individuals, including prominent attorney and United Workers Party (UWP) member Ronald Charles, have been arrested and charged in connection with protests held on March 19, 2025. Mr. Charles, who has been representing numerous individuals previously detained for their peaceful participation in these protests, was himself arrested on April 9, 2025, and charged. He was subsequently granted bail.

The IDU underscores the importance of safeguarding the constitutional rights of all citizens to freedom of speech, expression, and peaceful assembly.

Call for Transparency and Judicial Independence

There is clearly an urgent need for greater transparency, accountability, and good governance practices in the Commonwealth of Dominica. The IDU emphasizes that the protection of fundamental freedoms and rights is paramount to the health of any democracy. It is essential that the judiciary operates independently, free from any political influence, to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all citizens. The recent arrest of legal professionals defending opposition members may signal an overreach of the police force and underscores the need for judicial processes to remain impartial and unimpeded.

As Dominica undertakes its long-standing electoral reform process, it is crucial that the voices of all citizens are heard and considered. Inclusive dialogue and respect for civil liberties are foundational to achieving reforms that reflect the will and interests of the populace.

International Attention and Support

The IDU stands in solidarity with the people of Dominica and joins the Caribbean Democrat Union (CDU) in urging the international community to remain attentive to these developments. We call upon all stakeholders, including government authorities, civil society, and international partners, to work collaboratively to address these concerns, ensuring that Dominica continues to uphold the democratic values and principles that are the bedrock of a free and just society.