

OCCRP Report on Dominica's CBI Program

Background

On 11th October 2023 the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) published a report titled: "Investigation Reveals Thousands Who Bought 'Golden Passports' from Dominica". It was a joint collaboration between OCCRP, Government Action Project, and over a dozen of other media partners, including high profile newspapers such as the Guardian.

The report was written by Antoine Harari (Freelancer for Le Monde), Lara Dihmis (Reporter and Researcher for OCCRP), Zack Kopplin (Political activist and freelancer), Sharad Vyas (OCCRP) and Jess Purkiss (Freelancer political journalist); it was simultaneously published through different media outlets and via the reporters' social media profiles in Twitter.

Concurrently, other media outlets released articles referring to the above-mentioned report highlighting flaws in the investigation, raising concerns over the report, and suggesting that the credibility of OCCRP was put under the spotlight. Further, a Caribbean media outlet hinted on the existence of chats between an opposition worker, Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson and international media organisations.

Summary

Enquiries and extensive open-source research conducted were unable to identify any conclusive connection between OCCRP, and /or any of the journalist involved in the report and the opposition party in Dominica.

However, we were able to establish links between some of the journalists involved in the report and opposition media outlets in Dominica with links to Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson (TJ) and Linton Lennox (leader of the UWP party in Dominica).

Further, social media profiles for Trevor Johnson revealed that on his Facebook account he is friends with Lennox Linton; in addition, we identified a video posted by TJ a year ago on his YouTube channel, where he refers to the opposition leader as his partner, and he suggests to Lennox to put him [TJ] on "the slate as an international coordinator" and he will help Lennox to raise funds for the next election.

Enquiries also revealed that Loftus Durand (LD) is connected with an organisation in Dominica called Civic Vibes, LD conducts live broadcastings on Sundays via the organisation's Facebook profile. Social media review conducted in respect of Civic Vibes Facebook profile identified a broadcast dated 15th October 2023 where the OCCRP report was discussed and the special guest for the transmission was Antoine Harari. During the conversation Loftus indicates that he knows Antoine Harari, and it is not the first time they have been in contact.

Social media enquires were also conducted for Loftus Durand and we were able to establish that on his Facebook profile the individual is friends / connected to Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson, Antoine Harari, Linton Lennox, Ezekiel Bazil, and Nicholas Goerge (both also members of the UWP).

In respect of the enquiries conducted against the journalists involved in the report or its distribution, we were unable to identify any links between them (Lara Dihmis, Zack Kopplin, Jessica Purkiss, Sharad Vyas) and the opposition party (UWP), Linton Lennox or Trevor Johnson. However, we were able to establish that the journalists are connected on social media, specifically on Twitter.

Notably, none of the journalists seem to have any obvious connection or previous experience in Latin America or the Caribbean political matters, and it would appear that each of the journalists involved in the project were operating / working outside their geographical region of expertise.

Introduction

Extensive open-source enquiries were conducted in relation to the different publications and journalists involved to try to ascertain, to the extent possible, if there is any connection between OCCRP, and /or any of the journalist involved in the report and the opposition party in Dominica.

Additional enquires have also been conducted in relation to individuals who were involved in the journalist project, and / or have disseminated it as follows:

- Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson
- Loftus Durand
- Antoine Harari
- Lara Dihmis
- Zack Kopplin
- Jessica Purkiss
- Sharad Vyas

Main Report

Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson (TJ)

Research was conducted in respect of Trevor 'Tossy' Johnson to try to establish his identity, and connections with the opposition party. Enquiries revealed that the individual is a Dominican national, who is currently residing in Trinidad and Tobago.

Enquiries also revealed several social media accounts linked to Trevor Johnson and / or Tossy Johnson as follows:

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/trevor-johnson-bsc-hons-mrics-mistt-0a554810/?originalSubdomain=tt>
- Facebook: [\(9\) Trevor Johnson | Facebook](#)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/plantastictrevs/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/rovertjohnson/>
- Twitter: [Trevor Johnson \(@Trevsda\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)
<https://twitter.com/TossyTrevor>
- Threads: <https://www.threads.net/@rovertjohnson>
- YouTube: [Trevor Johnson - YouTube](#)

We note that one of Mr Johnson's profiles on Twitter - 'TossyTrevor' was created in February 2019, the name for the profile is Trevor Tossy Johson; further, he describes himself as a political activist and chartered quantity surveyor; a picture of the individual is also shown in the profile.

The social media account does not have many publications; however, all of them are political related; further, the two most recent tweets have the following hashtags: "#RoosveltSkerritMustGo #NowOrNever"

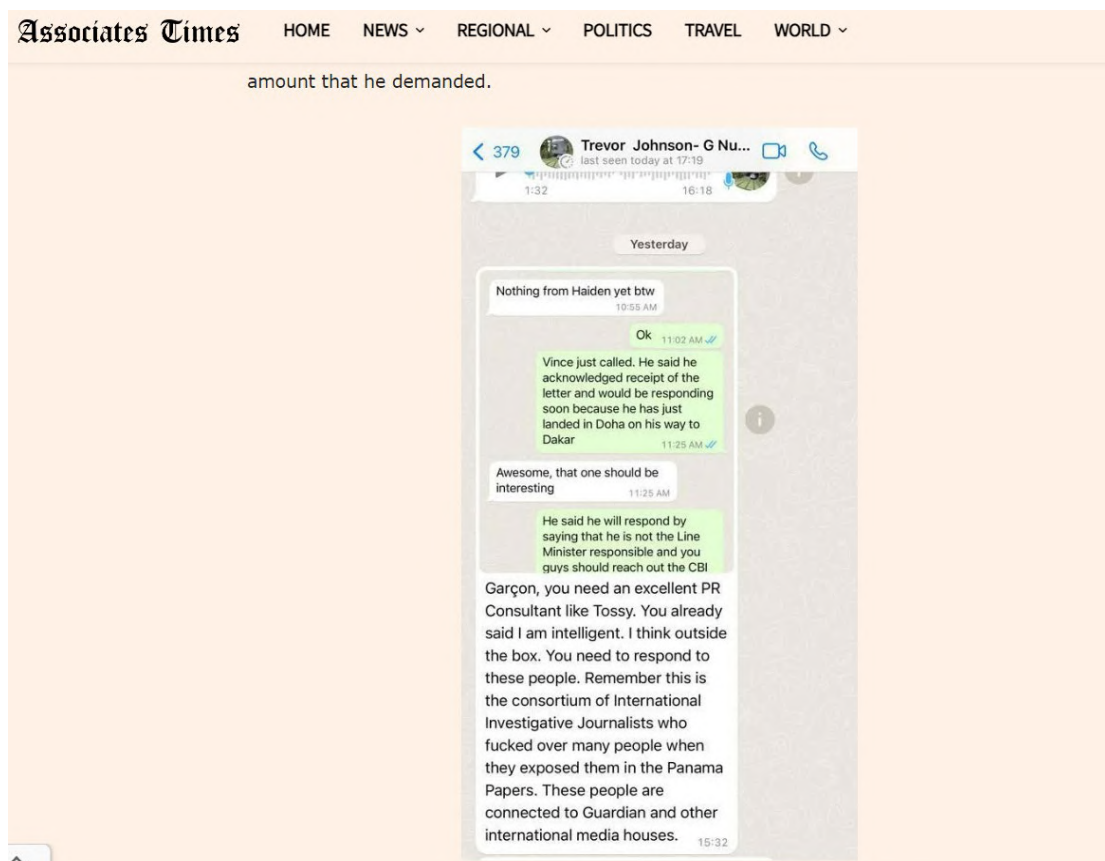
Trevor Johnson's Facebook profile revealed that his birthday is on April 26; however, we were unable to identify the year of his birth. Additionally, he is friends with Lennox Linton, the leader of the UWP party in Dominica.

We also reviewed TJ's YouTube account, from there we note a video of him posted one year ago in his social media channel titled: "Message to the Rank and File Members of the UWP", the video is 8:52 minutes, in which TJ comments on the resignation of Lennox Linton as the leader of the party; Trevor Johnson refers to the events in the following words: "you know I have to comment, my partner Lennox, he has resigned from the leadership".

Furthermore, during minute 3:40, TJ advises / suggests to Lennox to put him on "the slate as an international coordinator or whatever" and TJ will help Lennox to raise funds for the next election.

In addition to the previous statements, TJ goes further and says that he will support the party only under the leadership of Lennox Linton.

Additional enquiries against TJ revealed an article from the Associate Times, titled "UWP worker demands extortion from Dominica's biggest development". The article reveals audio and chats apparently from Trevor Johnson's WhatsApp, referring to Journalists from the Consortium of International Investigative Journalists (See image and link below)



- [UWP worker demands extortion from Dominica's biggest developer - Associates Times a Caribbean News website](#)

Finally, research identified the following two media articles for TJ, although they are not related to the journalistic report, we are including them for completeness:

- [Police question Trevor Johnson in connection with MITC post - Dominica News Online](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=LbLJ-qmnEeg>

Loftus Durand (LD)

Enquiries revealed that Lotus Durand is connected with an organisation in Dominica called Civic Vibes, LD conducts live broadcastings on Sundays via the organisation's Facebook profile.

We identified a broadcast dated Sunday 15th October, where the OCCRP report was discussed and the special guest for the transmission was Antoine Harari (one of the journalists involved in the report). The transmission is 2 hours and four minutes long. (See link below)

- [\(9\) Facebook Live | Facebook](#)

Notably, during the conversation between LD and Antoine Harari, Loftus indicates that he knows Antoine Harari, and it is not the first time they have been in contact.

Further enquiries into the organisation revealed the following email address:

- civicvibesda@gmail.com

Research conducted in respect of the email address revealed that it is a valid email address, and the account holder is Loftus Durand.

We also identified the following social media profiles for LD:

- Facebook: [\(9\) Lofty Durand | Facebook](#)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/loftydurand/>

From LD's Facebook profile we were able to establish that the individual is friends / connected to the following people:

- Trevor Johnson
- Lennox Linton
- Antoine Harari
- Ezekiel Bazil – Member of the UWP
- Nicholas George – Member of the UWP

Antoine Harari (AH)

Enquiries revealed that Antoine Harari is an independent investigative journalist who spends his time between Switzerland and Italy.

According to Pulitzercenter, it would appear that AH specialises in Sri Lanka, Dubai, Turkish Kurdistan, Northern Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Ruanda, and the Basque Country. There is no obvious connection or previous experience in Latin America or the Caribbean political matters.

The following social media and profiles websites were identified for AH:

- LinkedIn: [\(21\) Antoine Harari | LinkedIn](#)
- Twitter: [antoine harari \(@AntoineHarari\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)
- Website: [Antoine Harari - Journaliste Freelance](#)
- Website: [Antoine Harari | Pulitzer Center](#)

Lara Dihmis

Enquiries revealed that Lara is a reporter and researcher at OCCRP, she specialises in the Middle East & North Africa. According to her LinkedIn profile, she appears to be based in London.

Notably, Lara does not appear to have any obvious and / or previous experience in Latin America or the Caribbean political matters.

The following social media and profiles websites were identified for AH:

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lara-dihmis-60211814b/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/laradihmis?lang=en-GB>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LaraDihmis>

From Lara's Twitter account we note that she is connected to Antoine Harari and Jasper Jolly, a reporter from the Guardian, who published the article for this news outlet in the UK.

Zack Kopplin (ZK)

Enquiries revealed that Zack Kopplin is an American political activist, journalist, and television personality. According to ZK's LinkedIn profile, he appears to be based in New Orleans.

The following social media and profiles websites were identified for AH:

- LinkedIn: [\(21\) Zack Kopplin | LinkedIn](#)
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ZackKopplin>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZackKopplin>

From ZK's Twitter account we note that he is also connected to Antoine Harari and Jasper Jolly.

Jessica Purkiss (JP)

Enquiries revealed that Jessica Purkiss is investigative journalist based in Libano; her journalistic work has mainly focus on asylum seekers and refugees in the UK; however, her most recent publications have been dedicated to Afghanistan and Gaza.

Notably, Jessica does not appear to have any obvious and / or previous experience in Latin America or the Caribbean political matters.

According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Jessica has covered drone strikes in Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia for the Bureau and now runs our Shadow Wars project. Previously she was a staff writer and editor for Middle East Monitor and reported from Palestine. Jessica has an MA from Kingston University in human rights and genocide.

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-purkiss-7615044a/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JessicaPurkiss>

- TBIJ Website: <https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/profile/jessicapurkiss>
- Website: <https://muckrack.com/jessica-purkiss>

From JP's Twitter account we note that she is also connected to Lara Dihmis and Jasper Jolly.

Sharad Vyas (SV)

Sharad's profile is more discrete / less public than the other journalists involved directly or indirectly in the productions and / or dissemination of the report.

SD experience appears to be mainly in India with no obvious links or experience in Latin America or the Caribbean.

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharad-vyas-750743166/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sharadvyas7/media>
- Website: <https://muckrack.com/sharad-vyas>