

AN ANALYSIS OF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF POLICE AGENCIES IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: EVIDENCE FROM THREE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

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In the quest for effective external control of police departments, several Caribbean countries have created civilian oversight of police agencies. These agencies facilitated external police accountability and enabled ordinary citizens to participate in the process of police control. While anecdotal evidence suggests the presence of challenges and obstacles, there is a dearth of academic literature on civilian oversight of police agencies in the region. The current effort utilised a multi-phased case study approach in order to assess civilian oversight of police agencies in the Caribbean. Data were gathered from leaders of four civilian oversight of police agencies in three Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean. The findings emanating from the data suggest the presence of several challenges, advantages, and disadvantages associated with civilian oversight of police agencies in the countries under inquiry. These and other findings as well as recommendations for embracing civilian oversight of police agencies in the Caribbean are discussed.