



The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH COMMAND DENOUNCES CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF FALSE MISSING PERSON POSTER

At least one person was being questioned on Sunday, February 16, 2020, in relation to the creation and dissemination of a false missing person poster. The information was presented similar to that of an official Police missing person poster, but has been proven to be a hoax. The Police were able to confirm that the individual named on the poster was in a good condition and at home with family.

The High Command strongly denounces acts, such as this, which are meant to maliciously deceive the public. Missing person reports are very serious matters. The impact of such incidents are far-reaching and have a negative effect on families, society, and the state. Agencies, such as the Police, allocate large amounts of resources to these cases. Every missing person report brought to the attention of the Police, officially and unofficially, is treated with the highest level of urgency and seriousness. They each result in the start of an investigation. The High Command, therefore, takes this opportunity to warn persons against making false reports and/or manipulating official Police material to create false documents and images. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

We would also like to encourage media houses to be vigilant by verifying information before sharing it with the public, otherwise they stand to mislead the public when they fail to do so. Several media houses would have shared the false poster without first confirming its authenticity with the Police. We strongly discourage this practice. It is procedural for the Police to disseminate official information to media houses first, and to make ourselves available to respond to their queries.

Police are in search of additional individuals in relation to the incident. Investigations into the matter are ongoing.

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