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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES

Caribbean Security Report

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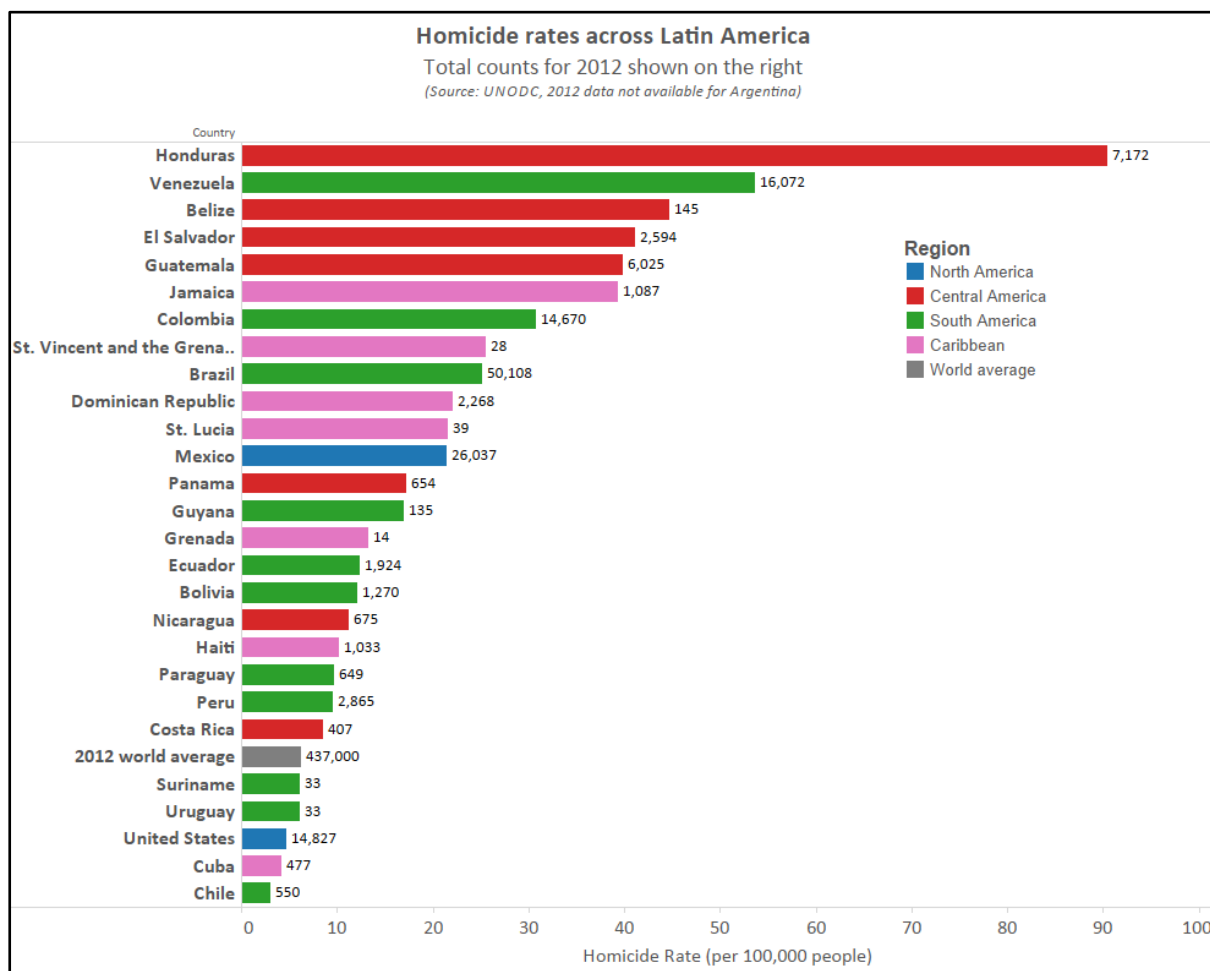
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Caribbean Crime Overview.

Crime throughout the Caribbean continues to be an ongoing issue for politicians to address, as the local communities are living under fear of personal attacks and property crime, which does not appear to be abating.

A number of the Caribbean countries are now looking towards the employment of private security guards rather than increasing the number of local police, due to the ingrained mistrust of the police. (Jamaica opened the Guardsman private-security group command centre in Kingston in May 2014). As a result it is now thought that private security guards probably outnumber police by three to one in Jamaica. In Trinidad and Tobago they make up perhaps 8% of the entire workforce.

Caribbean murder rates are still among the world's highest, with Honduras topping the table, but when broken down into regions within the Americas, the Caribbean figures highly (see figure 1). As mentioned, fear of violence and property crime is rife and a UN report found that less than a quarter of respondents believed their under-resourced police force could control robberies and burglaries; in Trinidad and Tobago, barely one-tenth thought so.



(Figure 1.)

On a more positive point, visitor numbers are up generally in the Caribbean. In the first quarter of 2014, tourism grew 4.7% overall in the Caribbean compared with the same period the previous year; the UK specifically was up 6% - More recent statistics from individual

islands show that by mid-year, the UK tourist market was up almost 10% to Antigua, 8% to Barbados, 12% to Jamaica, 16% to Grenada, and 20% to the Dominican Republic.

New hotels are being developed to encourage visitors and help boost visitor numbers, as have the number of direct flights to the region. However, the Caribbean cannot shy away from their responsibility towards tourism and they must be realistic in the information that they hand out to visitors regarding their own security. Many Caribbean islands are still guilty of hiding the true picture and glossing over the levels of crime, particularly against tourists.

Following a number of high profile crimes against tourists, cruise ship operators are now warning passengers about disembarking in certain stop-off locations as they attempt to offer appropriate and responsible advice. A number of Cruise lines have also been known to alter their destinations due to the crime rates associated within that location.

Much of the crime in the Caribbean revolves around drug and gun culture and the gangs that run these illegal businesses. Due to the lack of employment opportunities for the local youth, the attraction of this potentially fast living and lucrative lifestyle is very appealing and draws many at a young age. However, it is also a short lived lifestyle choice for many, as the mortality rate for the young is staggering. (Unicef report – the Caribbean has the highest rate of homicide among young people aged between 15-17, with boys 6 times more likely to be victims than girls).

The Caribbean remains a major transit route for drugs and drug use itself is rife. The drug culture dominates the poorer communities and this itself drives crime. Drug dealers carry guns to reinforce their territories and those involved in the operations are almost certainly armed, almost as a fashion accessory. Drug users require a constant stream of ready cash, which they gain from street robberies and burglaries from properties, both domestic and commercial. The prison system is over-run with numbers that they are not able to cope with.

Some Caribbean islands are attempting to put in place alternative schemes to attract the disillusioned youth, but progress will be slow and the influences from nearby America are effecting choices.

For the visitor to the Caribbean, it may well be that you see none of this sub-culture, but it would be foolish not to be aware of the possible circumstances that you may find yourself in. Sometimes it is just a case of being caught in the cross fire of a turf war and a case of the wrong place at the wrong time.

Take sensible precautions and heed local advice about where not to go. Don't flaunt your cash or valuables and don't venture into places alone at night. Lock up valuables in the hotel reception and don't leave valuables on show on your yachts when anchored, especially when you are not in attendance. If you are being robbed, do not attempt to apprehend the criminal, as this could turn violent.

Read the local newspapers to get a clear picture of local news and crime.

Intelligence news from around the Caribbean...



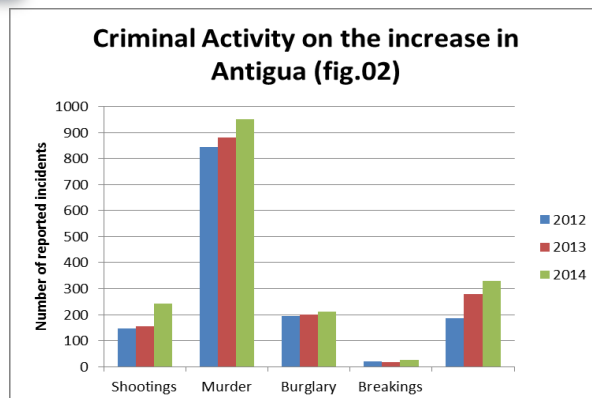
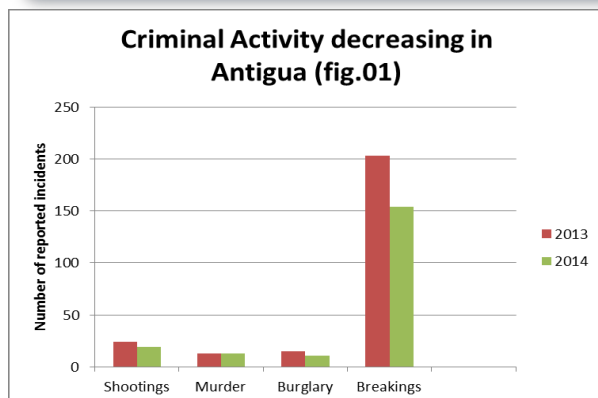
Antigua

During 2014, police have recorded a 5.6% increase in criminal activity within Antigua, with a total of 2,719 reports being made to the local police authorities.



In the last few years there has been a steady rise in the number of crimes reported to police as the total number of reported cases has risen from 2,568 cases in 2012 to 2,719 in 2014.

The increase in crime statistics is due to the significant increase in crimes such as sexual offences, robbery, malicious damage and wounding which took place throughout 2014 (See fig.02). It is important to note however, that although there has been an overall increase in criminal activity, there has been a reduction in certain types of crime which can be clearly seen in the below graph (fig.01)



Social media blogs and travel sites are extremely protective over the release and publicity of crime related incidents and therefore it is difficult to ascertain the exact extent of the crime problem in Antigua. However, in November 2014, a meeting of Senators from both the ruling and opposition party debated on the impending Criminal Procedure Amendment Act, which effectively states that convicts will have their time spent in remand deducted from their overall sentence. Anthony Stuart of the opposition party stated that there had been a 'drastic increase in crime' and that measures had not been taken to address this problem. It was stated that the island was having trouble with large groups of disenfranchised young people, who were angry and increasingly getting involved in armed robberies, shootings and rape incidents. So much so, those local businesses live in fear of such gangs and want something concrete done about this. The answer to this problem has been outlined in a 'crime plan' to be implemented in the 2015 National Budget. There is also talk of electronically tagging re-offenders.

Tourists to the island have complained about feeling unsafe and harassed by vendors, even when in the tourist cruise area of the quay in St. John's. For anyone visiting the island, you should be aware that although violent crime has increased, this increase has not, for the most part, affected visitors to the island. That said, you can be targeted for other crimes such as petty street crime and you are reminded not to leave baggage or personal belongings unattended particularly when on the beach as thieves have been known to target these locations.

Potential visitors to the island should also be aware of the increasing number of cases of the Chikungunya virus. Antigua saw its first case of the disease confirmed in April 2014 and has been on the increase since then. For more information on the virus see the health advisory section on pages 13 -15 of this report.



2014 saw the crime situation in the Bahamas reach critical levels and as a result four separate security alerts were issued for the capital, Nassau.



More than six million travellers visited the Bahamas during 2014 making tourism the country's top industry, therefore reports of crime against visitors is a delicate topic. The four alerts were issued by the US Embassy and similar alerts from the Canadian Embassy. They warned visitors of 'increasingly brazen crimes' which were sweeping through the country and how tourists were being caught up in violent clashes between rival gangs in the capital of New Province Island, Nassau, where 70% of the population live.

Since July 2013, the Government has not published National Crime Statistics, so exact figures are difficult to come by. However, local concern about the rise in

crime rates has prompted street protests and demands for action from the government and the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Crimes involving the use of violence are the main areas of concern. Armed robberies at gas stations, convenience stores, fast food restaurants, banks and residencies have increased dramatically and these can involve tourists getting 'caught up' in such incidents. Although crime against tourists is seen as 'low' there have been an increasing number of reports in local press papers of American citizens being victims of serious crimes. Early in 2014, a tourist was murdered in Freeport and two days later two tourists were victims of carjacking at Jaws Beach on New Providence Island. More recently, an American woman was kidnapped and raped and in November 2014 reports emerged of water scooter operators in Paradise Island having sexually assaulted at least three American tourists since July 2014.

A growing concern with the authorities in the Bahamas is that the criminals are becoming more and more brazen and creative in their methods. Daylight robberies involving weapons,

in busy locations, have emerged which included assaults against tourists. During mid-October, three armed men robbed customers waiting in the drive-through line at a local restaurant and reports have been circulated about robbers placing random items in the streets, to force people to stop. When they do stop they are then robbed by criminals in possession of firearms.

Sexual assaults are occurring more frequently and these can involve drink spiking, before kidnapping and raping the victim. This is increasingly happening in areas where tourists frequent, such as the Cable Beach area. As mentioned previously sexual assaults against women who hire jet skis have been reported on Paradise Island. It is worth noting that this industry is not very highly regulated in the Bahamas. Every year people are killed or seriously injured using jet skis and other watercraft carelessly, or by the reckless behaviour of others. Do not rent jet-skis or other water sports equipment unless you are an experienced user.

Gun crime and the confiscation of firearms and ammunition happen on a daily basis. This has been blamed on the close proximity of America to the Bahamas (50 miles at the closest point) and the lax gun laws in the Bahamas, which has allowed the country to become swamped with firearms. The illegal importation of firearms is a major challenge for Bahamian law enforcement authorities. Guns are used in about 60 per cent of violent crimes in the country. In 2012, police recovered 405 illegal firearms, 99 per cent of which originated in the state of Florida.

Drug running is rife on the island and the criminal gangs that partake in this industry are ruthless in protecting their territory and trade. Occasionally, visitors will get caught up in the cross fire of the regular gun battles that take place in certain districts in Nassau in particular.

Crimes against cruise ship passengers is a cause for concern, as the Bahamas has now become known as 'the most dangerous cruise destination in the world' according to 'Cruise Law news'. The number of reported robberies at knife point has prompted the cruise ship operators to start issuing warnings to their passengers before they disembark at ports in the Bahamas. Property theft, purse snatchings, and general theft of personal property remain the most common crimes perpetrated against tourists. However be aware that many criminals carry firearms, machetes, or knives. Violence is rarely seen in these types of crime but there have been several reported armed robberies using a knife where the assailant assaulted the victim after the victim fought back and resisted. You are therefore reminded that if you are confronted by armed criminals, do not fight back or argue as your vehicle or valuables are not worth your life or anyone else's.

Criminal activity in the Family Islands occurs less frequently. The U.S Embassy has received reports of burglaries and thefts, especially thefts of boats and other watercraft. Grand Bahama is somewhat of an exception, in that criminality has increased on that island, notably crimes involving the use of machetes (large blades).

Given the state of the Bahamas crime record, the government has to try to tackle the problem head-on, before it drives away the main industry of the island, tourism. In December, the Inter-American Development Bank has proposed a \$20 million project to increase citizen security and the deficiencies in the justice system in the Bahamas. However, the number of unemployed and disenfranchised youth, influenced by the drug culture of America, are not going to change their ways over-night. Nassau is described as a city under siege of the drug dealers and the local population are demanding that something be done about it and quickly.

Barbados

Crimes against tourists are still a concern as the Home Affairs Minister states that there had been 239 reports received between January and November 2014.



Barbados has been making efforts to tackle the perception and reality of crime on this Caribbean island, which has gained a reputation for violent gang crime in recent years, which has impacted on tourists.

According to the Attorney General Braithwaite, in November 2014, crime rates had dropped, stating that there had been 6,526 reported cases of crime in the country in 2014, compared to 7,893 cases for the same period last year. Theft and theft related crimes accounted for 21% of this total, which according to published statistics was down by 12 % when compared to the previous year. The figures also showed a similar picture a number of additional crimes

such as assaults and wounding; decrease of 8.5%; Residential burglary; decrease of 30% and drug-related crime decreased by 28%.

However, these statistics do not paint the full picture, as gun-related crimes and homicides have not reduced significantly. To date, there were 22 homicides as of November 2014, compared with 23 in 2013. (15 of these involved the use of guns). The only difference being, that 18 of the cases this year, have been cleared up and culprits taken to court. This demonstrates the new intelligence-led approach that the Royal Barbados Police Force has adopted and it seems to be proving successful.

The most prevalent of crimes is theft from accommodation, totalling 106 cases; 19 cases of theft from the person and 16 cases of robbery. High-traffic business areas commonly frequented by tourists can be targeted for opportunistic street crimes like purse snatching and pocket picking. And when crime against visitors does occur, it's often not reported by the local media out of concerns over possible backlash against the all-important tourism industry.

Many tourists in Barbados complain about being harassed by people selling narcotics, which are illegal in the country. Beach merchants will offer a variety items for sale, including drugs, and visitors should use caution in dealing with them. Drug-related violence, however, is usually confined to drug dealers and their associates.

The presence of so many guns on the island is something that the authorities are taking steps to address. The Government of Barbados has recently ratified the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, as well as three supplementary protocols dealing with human trafficking and firearms. These protocols promote increased cooperation between states in the battle against trafficking of drugs and people, which has plagued the Caribbean

for many years. Alongside this, the Royal Barbados Police Force has stepped up surveillance and vigilance at Ports of Entry and the Post Office. They are carrying out more random checks, even on local fishermen, to try to curb the import of weapons and other illegal goods. This may have an influence on the nature of crimes in the future, but will take time to change significantly. In the meantime, visitors are asked to take sensible precautions when on the island and not carry unnecessary valuables with them when out on the beaches and not to resist any robber, as this could take a violent turn.

Visitors to the island should try to avoid venturing into areas alone at night, particularly outside of the tourist areas, due to the prevalence of unmarked and unlit roads. Places such as St. Lawrence Gap in the south of the island, is considered a dangerous area for visitors and serious incidents have occurred in places such as Long Beach, Christ Church, Maycocks Beach and St. Lucy. You must remain vigilant when using ATMs, especially those located close to roadsides or in secluded areas and avoid wearing expensive jewellery, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash as this can make you target.



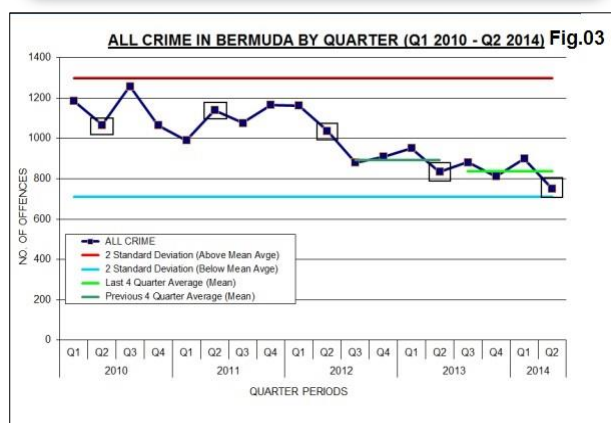
Bermuda

Since the newly elected One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) party came to power in 2012, the party has vowed to address the growing concerns regarding crime and make this a priority for the party.

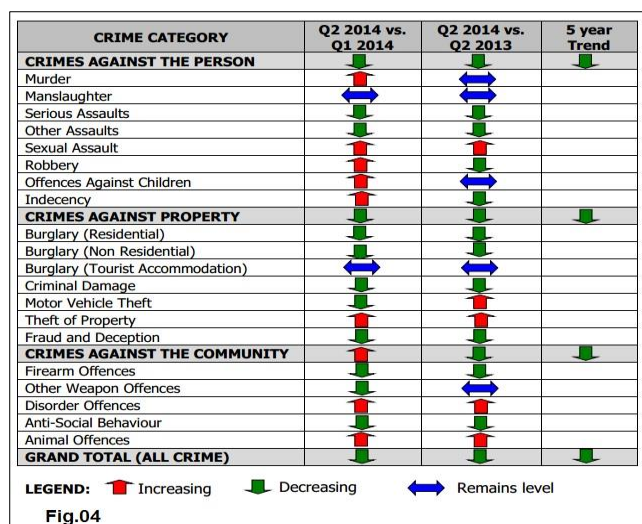


They promised to put every available resource into the battle to rid the streets of guns and have implemented programmes such as the 'cash for guns' to encourage residents to give in their weapons and have strengthened the island's borders to try to prevent the importation of illegal arms and drugs, which still plagues the island.

Their success to date can be seen when you look at the overall rate of crime in Bermuda according to the Bermuda Police Service 'Quarterly Crime Statistics' which shows a decline in crime since the start of 2012 (See fig.03). The report then goes onto look at individual types of crime in more detail and how that has changed over the last couple of years (see fig.04). There has been a slight decrease in crimes against a person and residential property burglaries, but a rise in certain crimes, such as the theft of motor vehicles, muggings and more seriously, sexual assaults



Many residents on the island acknowledge that they live in a drug-based culture, where gangs control the street and people are afraid to stand up to them, for fear of reprisals. These gangs use firearms to exert their power and are not afraid of the



consequences of being caught and have little respect for the police.

The island has been experiencing a recession for the last four years and the excessive taxes faced by the population, means that many locals are struggling to get by. (It is 380% more expensive to live here than in the USA and 280% more expensive than the UK) This in turn forces young disillusioned males in particular, to follow in the footsteps of the gangs.

There is very much a 'tit for tat' culture on the island, specifically within the gang community and this is where others not

involved or else run the risk of getting caught in the shot outs or other violent crimes.

Gun crime has dominated the island since 2006, when armed officers were put onto the streets, but this seems to have done little to quash the problem. The use of guns is widespread. Firearms can be used in robberies, even when members of the public are present, as was the case in November, when the 'Mr Chicken' premises was robbed at gunpoint at Mount Hill, Pembroke Area. Other notable incidents involving firearms, were the two separate shootings on Remembrance Day, when shots were fired into the crowds at Devonshire National Sports Centre and outside the Somerset Cricket Club in the Sandy area, with the latter seriously injuring three men. The perpetrators of both incidents have not been apprehended. A fatal shooting of a police officer in December, who was shot by a man fleeing a murder scene in Southampton, has brought the issues over firearms to the forefront of the agenda once again.

Drug related crimes have reportedly decreased, but cannabis and cocaine are widely used on the island. In the second quarter of 2014, an estimated 8.6kg of controlled drugs with an estimated street value of \$1,246,617 had been seized; cannabis was the drug most commonly seized and crack cocaine was the second highest. In October, a huge haul of cannabis was seized in the waters off Bermuda, just after Hurricane Gonzalo had hit. The seizure was carried out by HMS Argyll and involved 10 bundles of cannabis, worth around £10 million. Many visitors to the island may find that they are offered drugs to buy, but must refrain from doing so as the penalties for being in possession are high, especially for visitors. Cruise ship passengers are the most commonly caught criminals relating to drug offences and Narcotics officers travel on every Bermuda-bound cruise ship, with drug-sniffing dogs and more and are given complete freedom by every cruise line whether in American, international or Bermuda waters to enter cabins of suspects at any time of the day or night, whether the cabins are occupied or not, when passengers are awake or sleeping, without a warrant, to make detailed searches and arrest suspects.

Alcohol related crimes are also on the increase and the numbers of intoxicated drivers are the biggest category to have increased. Please note that tourists are not allowed to drive cars in Bermuda!



St. Lucia

Following much criticism about the cover-up of crimes involving tourists, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Forces have now tried to reassure visitors that they are tackling the growing spike in petty crime, using an intelligence-led approach.



It cannot be ignored, that St. Lucia has a problem with a growing number of gun related crimes, which has and continues to target tourists, who may be unaware of the current situation.

St. Lucia has now been ranked in the top ten of the most dangerous destinations in the world for cruise ships to visit (according to 'Cruise Law News' in April 2014). This follows a number of recent incidents whereby cruise ship passengers have been robbed at gun-point whilst on excursions to popular tourist attractions on the island. On April 12th 2014, 55 Celebrity cruise passengers and 2 crew members were robbed at gun point whilst in St Lucia on

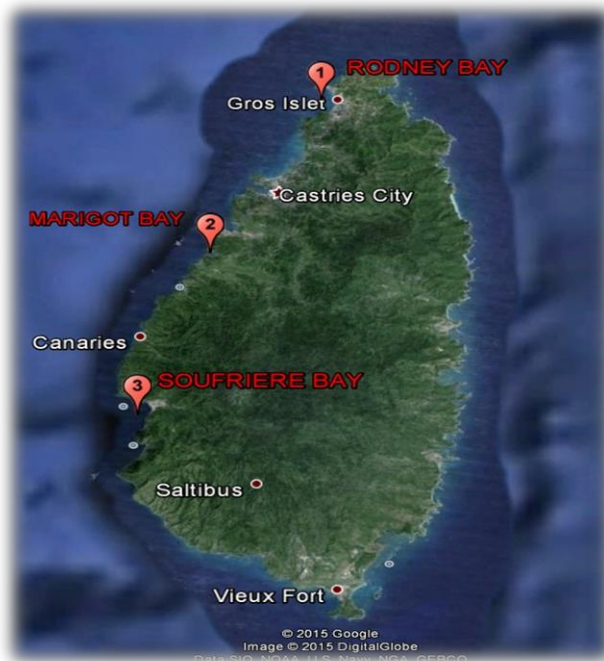
their way; by bus; to visit the Botanical Gardens in Soufriere. Fortunately no one was injured during the incident however all the passengers aboard the bus had their money and Jewellery stolen. The passengers had not been warned of the dangers posed on the island and the police force and the tourist authorities effectively denied any knowledge of previous attacks and failed to file police reports on the incidents.

Despite the occurrence of the above incident, some of the biggest cruise ship companies, such as Disney Cruise Lines are planning at least five calls to St Lucia in the 2014/2015 season. Port Castries is set to receive over 685,000 cruise ship passengers from over 375 cruise ships this season. These passengers should be advised on the safety issues affecting the island and warned about certain areas of the island, to avoid. Sensible precautions should be taken, such as not wearing any jewellery, carrying unnecessary cash and leaving valuables on the ship. Warnings about other areas to avoid around Rodney Bay, namely the districts of Marchand, Broglie, St Grass, St Leslie Land, Wilton Yard, located off Chausee Road and Morne Du Don, should be issued by the cruise companies, who are ultimately responsible for the safety of their passengers.

Other crimes that would target tourists have been reported in Rodney Bay, concerning ATM machines that have had skimmers attached and significant amounts of cash have been stolen. At least four tourists were affected by this in one day, as criminals attach the devices, which scan your card details, to machines used by the many visiting Cruise ship passengers. The criminals then use these card details to withdraw large amounts of money from a location on the opposite side of the island, such as Vieux Fort. A gang involved in this scam at the Rodney Bay Marina, have been arrested (2nd December) and are now in police custody.

Reporting crimes to the Royal St Lucian Police may not bring the resolution that many passengers or tourists may expect. The Bordelais Correctional Facility on the island currently has around 634 inmates in a facility designed to hold a maximum of 500. Of these,

an astonishing 58.2% of inmates are on remand and some have been for over 5 years. There remain 400 unresolved murder cases in a population of only 165,595. These statistics do not paint a rosy picture and are not reassuring for effective crime fighting figures.



Yachts due to visit the island should be aware that there has been an increase in the number of thefts taking place at marinas across the island. Since September 2014 there have been 11 reported incidents; according to safetyandsecurity.net; in 3 main locations:

1. Rodney Bay
2. Marigot
3. Soufriere

In most cases the crime would involve thieves targeting small valuable items, such as cash, mobile phones, other electrical devices and yachts' property, such as dinghies and outboards. Further information on these incidents can be found on the 'Caribbean safety and security net' website.

As of November 17th, a new security company was contracted to provide

expanded security along each pontoon at the Rodney Bay Marina. This will hopefully help to decrease the number of crimes against yachts and their owners. Security surrounding the main marinas and yacht clubs on the island will have to be stepped up in November, as 240 boats and 1,200 people make their way to the island as part of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC), many of whom will arrive on the island towards the end of November and the beginning of December. Our advice would be to not rely solely on the security provided at the marinas, but have your own security measures in place during your stay to safeguard both you and your vessel. Remember that many islanders are struggling to get by and the appearance of a large group of overtly wealthy westerners could be too much to resist.

In September 2014, the St. Lucian Health Minister warned of a spike in Chikungunya cases in the south of the island and has reminded the population to be vigilant to preventing possible sources of mosquitoes breeding. St. Lucia reported its first case of the disease in April 2014 in the village of Anse La Raye. Following that, cases were identified in Gros Islet and Dennery. Continued surveillance has shown that the number of cases has spread throughout the south. More information on this disease can be found within the health advisory section of this report.

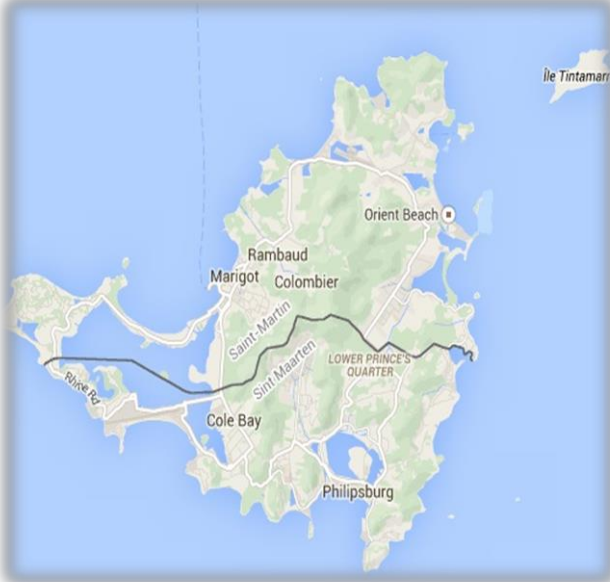
There is also increased risk of Dengue fever, as St. Lucia is in the rainy season and this gives way to more breeding grounds for the mosquitoes.

As of mid-October 2014, the Government of St. Lucia imposed with immediate effect, a prohibition on persons arriving from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the light of the Ebola outbreak in these three countries and they require a recent medical certificate from persons arriving from Nigeria.



St. Maarten

Petty crime such as robbery and burglary continues to be a problem for this half French, half Dutch Island.



For boat owners in particular, crimes of burglary and theft of boating equipment, especially dinghies, are on the rise across this island. Certain locations appear to be at greater risk of these crimes, namely Witches Tit and areas around Nettle Bay (French side) and Simpson Bay (Dutch side). At least 13 incidents were reported to Caribbean safety and security net in 2014 involving these locations, however the true number of incidents is unknown as a large proportion go unreported. The reports have shown an increasing number electrical devices being stolen along with the normal items of high value and cash. Many of the robberies took place during the hours of darkness and involved the thieves entering occupied boats as well as

unoccupied boats which are of great concern. As mentioned, a large proportion of these types of incidents go unreported to the authorities therefore it is unlikely that effective action will be taken. It is important for all visiting boat owners to be pro-active in their own security provision and take sensible safety precautions that will limit their risk.

Passport theft is a growing crime across the island. Passports are being stolen so that they can then be doctored for others to use. Always take photocopies of the original passport and secure the original in a safe place.

Visitors to the island are also being targeted by theft of rental cars or items from within them. If you rent from a company on the Dutch side of the island, the rental cars tend to have a large 'R' on the car, immediately identifying you as a tourist and a possible target. Whereas, on the French side, the rental cars are not as easy to identify. Due to the rise in theft from rental cars, the companies ask people *not* to lock the doors, to reduce the risk of a costly break-in by smashing windows, which have had a financial impact on the industry. Instead, the rental company will advise against leaving anything in the car once you have parked up. You may be approached by people offering to help you find a parking space in busy locations. Do not accept this offer and move somewhere else. At some locations, young local youth will offer to protect your car whilst you are away, for a small fee. This might be worth considering, as if you don't pay, it is inevitable that the car will be damaged or anything within it will be stolen.

Burglaries and break-ins are common at resorts, beach houses, and hotels. So always secure all your valuables, preferably in the hotel safe, rather than your room safe.

Armed robberies and tourists being chased by people on motorcycles have been reported. It is advisable to find out the neighbourhoods not to visit from those knowledgeable about the island and avoid these areas altogether.

The island of St. Maarten continues to be used to smuggle illegal drugs from South America to Europe and North America. In August 2014, 600 kilos of cocaine; with a street value of 7.2 million guilders (which is equivalent to approx. 3.5 million euros) was found in a container which was destined for ST. Maarten. You should have a heightened sense of awareness of this problem and never leave bags unattended. Under no circumstances should you discuss or agree to carry a package for anyone. Some airports have installed "body scanners" and you may be required to have a scan. Dutch authorities generally screen all baggage and passengers from the Dutch Caribbean. It is worth noting that despite what you might hear; Marijuana is not legal and certainly is not regulated as in certain parts of the Netherlands.

St Maarten was hit badly by Hurricane Gonzola, back in October 2014, with many boats being damaged. It has been reported that around thirty seven boats were said to be destroyed in boatyards around the island. Most where in Simpson Bay Lagoon or at Sandy Ground, Marigot Bay and Grand Case on the northwest coast. Elsewhere, five boats were washed up in the sheltered Oyster Pond and the resort bars at Orient Beach were said to be devastated. Repairs are continuing to the damaged infrastructure surrounding the marinas and lagoons.

Chikungunya fever is a continuing problem for the island, which receives around 2 million visitors every year. In an attempt to keep the present disease outbreak down, the government has implemented an island wide campaign of insecticide fogging and house to house clean-ups of places where mosquitoes tend to breed. So far this year, the French side to the north has had 475 confirmed cases, the largest cluster in all of the islands, whilst the Dutch side has had 40 confirmed cases. This outbreak is affecting tourist numbers, which are said to be down on figures from the same period in previous years.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The crime rate in St. Vincent and the Grenadines remains high, when compared with other developed countries.



In the capital Kingstown, on St. Vincent, where the majority of the Vincentians live, gun crime and drug related incidents have continued to trouble the residents and the authorities. Whilst steps are being taken to address the more petty crimes, gangs still dominate the sub-culture of the main island.

High unemployment alongside underachievement in the educational system, have led to a rise in levels of violence and criminal activity, as the youth become involved in criminal activity that consumes their communities. A recent report suggests that statistics show that during the last three years, deaths to young people between the ages of 15 – 29 years averaged 5 per cent of total

deaths. Too many are dying before their thirtieth birthday. To try to tackle this problem, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Youth department have been implementing programmes to attempt to draw local youth away from the pull factors associated with the gang culture.

Recent crime in Kingstown has been dominated by shootings, with three murders within one weekend in November, taking the homicide count up to 36 (November 2014).

Criminals are using firearms in robberies and in some cases, these have taken place outside primary schools, as was the case in December, when a father of six was shot in the leg during a robbery from his vending stall outside the school. Criminals are ruthless in their methods and have even robbed a physically challenged lady of her wheelchair, in October, leaving her lying on the pavement.

The island of St. Vincent plus over 30 Grenadines has always been a popular yachting destination. In the last couple of years however, there have been an increasing number of reports (according to noonsite) regarding thefts from yachts at anchor in this part of the Caribbean and in some cases the perpetrators have been armed. Current advice is to avoid anchoring overnight at Chateubelair (St. Vincent) and to be extra vigilant with security measures in all anchorages on the West Coast of St. Vincent and around the Grenadines, in Admiralty Bay, Bequia and at Tobago Cays. In December 2014 it was reported that there was an attempted robbery on board a yacht whilst at anchor at Princess Margaret Beach. Thefts from yachts within this location appear to be an ongoing problem. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines periodically puts patrols in the area but the patrols do not remain in place for long. You are advised to remain vigilant during your visit and be sure to lock all hatches when leaving the boat unattended and in particular during the night whilst sleeping on board.

Dinghy thieves are also known to operate throughout the Caribbean. In February 2014 a yacht was subjected to this type of theft in Bequia Lower Bay. Best advice is to place your dinghy on deck and chain it overnight

Outside of the main island of St. Vincent, crime is not as prevalent. In the islands where the rich and famous mingle, such as Mustique, Palm Island and Union Island, crime rates are lower, but care still needs to be taken when out and about.



US Virgin Islands

The US Virgin Islands has one of the highest per capita murder rates in the world, currently standing at 35.5 per 100,000 people.



Crime in the Virgin Islands statistically speaking is fairly high, particularly on St. Thomas and St. Croix where crimes tend to include domestic abuse, domestic violence including child molestation and murder/drug issues. These incidences often happen where victim and perpetrator know each other. Murders are often among persons who have knowledge of each other, frequently within the illegal drug

business and take place in areas known for drug problems.

The use of firearms in robberies and muggings is becoming all too common. Armed robberies have occurred recently in St. Thomas and St. John's with a large number of them taking place in locations which are frequented by tourists and residents alike, such as busy shopping centres. Armed bank robberies took place in October, in St. Croix, and the United States Virgin Islands police department website shows an alarming number of incidents

including murder and kidnap for ransom which have taken place in the last few months alone.

These are just some of the recent violent crimes where an unsuspecting tourist could become the victim of the wrong place at the wrong time, but it has also been reported that due to the discrepancy between the socioeconomic status of the local population, deep routed animosity towards tourists, is becoming evident through the hostile reception that many feel that they are experiencing.

Crimes against visitors and tourists are typically low, with an infrequent occurrence of bags/purses being stolen. A recent spike of muggings in St. Thomas has created much attention from the police department and tourism related organizations. Areas such as Charlotte Amalie has a bad reputation for pickpockets & purse snatchers during the day and you are strongly advised to avoid wandering this location alone at night, particularly the back streets. The same can be said for areas in St. Croix such as Christiansted and Frederiksted where the backstreets have been known for random acts of violence as well as muggings and petty theft. Visitors are advised to refrain from carrying large quantities of money, passports, multiple credit cards or expensive jewellery as this can make you a target.

Allmode Summary and Advice

January 2015 edition of the Caribbean report is based on a few of the Caribbean Islands, in the same order as the 2014 editions. Each edition will highlight news on different regions of the Caribbean to help create better situational Awareness and highlight the risk of visiting the region.

It is important to remember the Caribbean, in general, relies heavily on tourism and news of criminal activity or threat to life can be devastating to their economy, so it comes as no surprise that not all criminal activity is reported and those that are reported are not always released to the media. Statistics and information available do not always reflect the true threat.

As illustrated throughout this report, it is clear that petty crime is one of the most common risks throughout all of the Caribbean Islands and our advice would be to stay extra vigilant when visiting the regions and ensure that you remain alert and maintain a high level of personal security.

Keep all valuables locked away and should you be staying in hotel it is recommended that you use the hotel safe. When out and about, try to refrain from taking large quantities of cash and use credit or debit cards instead. If you are carrying cash, then try to conceal it on your persons rather than carrying it within a purse or bag. Reports have indicated that thieves will carry knives in order to cut the straps of bags or purses before taking off with your belongings.

Coastal crimes have shown an increase in boat / yacht robberies, so, when leaving boats / yachts, or indeed any form of accommodation, be sure to undertake basic security precautions and use common sense to ensure that you have closed and locked all doors and windows.

There is a heightened degree of risk when anchored in the Caribbean. Dinghy and outboard theft has increased considerably in the last few years so ensure that you place your dinghy on board and secure it during the night.

Stay extra vigilant during the hours of darkness as this tends to be when robberies are predominantly undertaken. By maintaining a watch rotation during the night, enhanced by deck watches, this will help to reduce the potential risk of boarding/robbery whilst at anchorage. You may consider employing a Security team for your time in the region.

The Caribbean is found to have one of the highest murder rates within the world resulting from a drastic increase in the level of drug and gun related crime. Many of these crimes go unreported so we only see a small part of the true picture and the true reflection is thought to be considerably higher. With that in mind, when visiting these areas you are advised to improve your situational awareness and research the area you are due to visit fully. This can be achieved in a number of ways; the use of full risk assessments, contacting your local National consulate or representative, or at least those of the UK, US or France for any travel advice within the region and by keeping up to date on any local related news. Allmode can provide an in depth risk assessment on any area within the world upon request (for more information you can contact intelligence@allmode.org).

When travelling on land throughout the Caribbean, you are advised to travel in groups. If you do wish to undertake trips which involve more remote locations then it is advised strongly that you use a qualified guide. Be sure to research the area fully and seek local advice about the areas with high levels of criminal activity. In some cases where the threat is of a very high level, you may wish to consider the use of close protection officers. This type of protection comes highly recommended when visiting areas which are known to suffer from gun related crime, assaults and the risk of kidnappings. Allmode can offer you more information on Security Services at our website www.allmode.org

Finally, Allmode would advise that you discuss the appropriate insurance needed with your Broker before transiting or visiting the region.

Health Advisory

Chikungunya in the Caribbean...

The following countries within the Caribbean have reported cases of Chikungunya as of the 21st October 2014:

- Anguilla
- Antigua
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Curaçao
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Haiti
- Jamaica

- Martinique
- Montserrat
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Barthelemy
- Saint Kitts
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Martin (French)
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Sint Maarten (Dutch)
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- US Virgin Islands

The centre for Disease Control and Prevention have produced a map showing how the virus has affected the Americas.

- As of December 12, 2014, local transmission had been identified in 41 countries or territories in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, or North America. A total of 1,012,347 suspected and 22,579 laboratory-confirmed Chikungunya cases had been reported from these areas (Updated data from the Pan American Health Organisation).
- Chikungunya virus likely will continue to spread to new areas in the Americas (North America, Central America, and South America) through infected people and mosquitoes.
- The mosquitoes that transmit the virus are found throughout much of the Americas, including parts of the United States.
- Since Chikungunya virus is new to the Americas, most people in the region are not immune. This means they can be infected and spread the virus to other mosquitoes.



(Countries and territories in the Americas where Chikungunya cases have been reported* (as of December 16, 2014)

Chikungunya is a virus that spreads through Mosquito bites and the most common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Joint Pain
- Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Joint swelling
- Rash

If you are travelling within the Caribbean then you are at risk of the disease and we urge that you take all necessary precautions to protect yourselves against these Mosquito bites. You can reduce the risk of Mosquito bites following the following preventative guidelines:

- Cover exposed skin with long sleeved clothing, long trousers and hats.
- Use insect repellent as directed (products with a higher percentage of active ingredients such as Deet, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 will provide longer protection)
- Apply repellent **after** you have applied sunscreen
- Use a bed net, particularly in regards to babies and children
- Stay and sleep in screened or air conditioned rooms

If you feel unwell and think you may have contacted Chikungunya then talk to your doctor or nurse, especially if you have a fever. Be sure to advise them of your travel locations. Take plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids.

You can get more information on this disease by looking at the following website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/>



Travel-Safe

Travel - Safe is designed to mitigate risk through enhanced security and situational awareness by training and effective protective security.

- Are you planning a holiday or business trip to a high risk area?
- Do you know what risks you face?
- Have you got the correct security plans in place?
- What emergency contingency strategy has been employed?

Services Menu:

- **Travel – Safe Training**
- **Travel Security Assessment**
- **Intelligence Reporting**
- **Insurance Advice**
- **Close Protection Teams**
- **Medical Support**
- **GPS Tracking**
- **Enhanced Communications**
- **24/7 Operation Support**
- **Agent and Logistic Support**
- **Worldwide Concierge Services & Advanced Arrival Planning**

Allmode will provide a non-intrusive security solution, as we understand that the risks facing clients are unique and fluid. We aim to provide a bespoke protective capability that mitigates these risks, thus providing a secure environment for you to safely conduct your holiday or business.

Offering competitive rates with a worldwide capability.

Make Allmode your first point of contact when it comes to your training and security needs.

For further information please contact us:

Email: admin@allmode.org | T: +44 (0)845 004 8000 | www.allmode.org



About Allmode

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Allmode Limited provides a range of Risk Management and Security Services to global, private clients. Due to the diversity of our client base we have consultants from a wide range of backgrounds and professions heightening our knowledge and experience within the Shipping industry which we serve.

Based within the UK, our head office is located in Ramsey on the Isle of Man and our ability to operate globally is enhanced through our network of in-country professionals, contacts and resources and specifically through strategically located offices in Dubai and Singapore.

Our work ethos is focused around professionalism, reliability, time and cost. Our ability to recognise what is important and listen to our clients combined with our extensive networks, wide spectrum of services and worldwide capability ensures that we deliver effectively on all four. Our SAFE concept encompasses a number of services that can be tailored to fit a specific vessel and clients' needs.

MARITIME SERVICES

Allmode has extensive experience in providing security and maritime solutions to a global market, our key services are:

- Armed/Unarmed Vessel Security
- Fleet/Vessel Security Assessment & Consultancy
- Fleet/Vessel Journey Management & Tracking
- Vessel Hardening – in line with industry guidelines
- Intelligence Updates & Piracy Analysis
- Vessel Recovery
- ISPS Regulated Vessel Audits & Ship Security Plans
- Incident & Emergency Management with 24 hour shore side support
- Crew & Staff Security Training Packages
- Super-yacht Security Including Close Protection Services

Our YACHT-SAFE concept encompasses a number of services that can be tailored to fit a specific vessel and clients' needs. Our yacht safe teams have been specially trained to operate aboard your yachts and understand the intricacies of being aboard high profile vessels.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

- Allmode High Risk Area (HRA) reporting
- Weekly intelligence reporting
- Spot reporting
- Advisory reporting

- Passage risk assessments (PRA)
- Operational risk assessments (ORA)

PORT & FACILITY SECURITY CONSULTANCY

- ISPS Port Facility Assessments (PFSA)
- ISPS Port Facility Plan (PFSP)
- Vulnerability Assessment of the Physical Protection Systems
- Gap Analysis

HOSTILE & COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Many companies globally are faced with operating in hostile and complex environments. This is particularly true of the natural resources sectors. Often businesses lack the in-house capability to manage their security requirements adequately.

Allmode deploys their consultants, embedding them in the clients' operations, to not only manage the security plan and advise on risk management issues, but provide professional advice, tailoring strategies and aiming to add value throughout the task, helping clients to operate in difficult environments so they can concentrate on their core business.

Most businesses need a security partner. Allmode is well placed to provide bespoke solutions for companies who require support and solutions in several critical areas:

- Close protection details
- Armed protection teams in very high risk environments
- Security awareness training
- Market entry assessments and scoping visits
- Incursion and intrusion testing
- Technical surveillance countermeasures
- Life support solutions and facilities/ camp management
- Major event security
- Crisis management planning
- Research and Intelligence

When operating in challenging or hostile environments, having a comprehensive but concise security plan in place enables our clients to both mitigate the risks to their projects and react effectively to incidents.

Our modular approach to security planning makes our solutions flexible and adaptable to many different environments.

Our aim is to protect lives, protect assets, maintain all stakeholder relationships, and minimise any potential reputational harm.

CLOSE PROTECTION SERVICES

Allmode provides close protection services to high wealth individuals and corporate clients. Because we understand the risks facing clients are unique and fluid, we aim to provide a bespoke protective capability that mitigate these risks, thus providing a secure and none intrusive environment for the client to conduct their business and personal lives. Close Protection Officers employed by Allmode, are carefully interviewed, trained and selected for each task. All our Close Protection Officers are highly qualified, experienced and fully licensed.

BESPOKE TRAINING SERVICES

Allmode offers a comprehensive range of training packages that can be delivered globally. Using expertise built over many years and supported by current intelligence taking into consideration historical trends. All of our training is designed for specific client needs, so we have developed a wide range of solutions, from STCW to bespoke Crew security training. All of our training can be tailored to suit our client's timeframes and locations and has been designed to:

- Protect Principal, client and crew / employees
- Offers Brand Protection
- Increase your security awareness
- Protect your Assets
- Stay safe ashore
- Keep your operational capability

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SECURITY OR INTELLIGENCE PLEASE CONTACT



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Intelligence Support: Intelligence@allmode.org



Website: www.allmode.org

