

Crime fighting remains a top priority in Jamaica for 2011

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Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding said crime rate in his country is very high and reducing it remains a top priority for his government for this year.

In his New Year message to the nation, the Prime Minister said his cabinet has already issued drafting instructions for tough anti-gang legislation which will be enacted for 2011.

"The majority of violent crimes are linked to the activities of organized criminal gangs for which special targeted measures are required. Just as countries throughout the world found it necessary after 9/11 to institute special measures to deal with international terrorists, we too need special measures to deal with organized criminal gangs whose viciousness is just as costly in human lives."

Mr. Golding said there has been a greater level of cooperation from the public in providing information to the police and in their willingness to testify.

"This cooperation is vital if we are to ensure that violent criminals are taken off the streets and kept off the streets," he added.