

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....



Chambers

*Director of Public Prosecutions,
P.O. Box 1031,
Georgetown,
Guyana*

8th December, 2023

DPP'S CHAMBERS PRESS RELEASE – TRIBUTE TO FALLEN GDF SOLDIERS

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC and staff extend profound condolences on the tragic loss of Retired Brigadier Gary Beaton, Colonel Michael Shahoud, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Charles, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Welcome and Staff Sergeant Jason Khan.

We join with the entire nation in mourning the loss of these brave men who with courage and determination carried out their duties to our beloved country in the face of harsh weather and uncertain terrain. They stayed true to the words of our National Anthem which reads, **“Dear Land of Guyana, to you will we give, Our Homeage, Our Service, each day that we live....”** They did this without reserve for which we now applaud them even though in death.

As we mourn their loss, we reflect on the words of our own Martin Carter, **“Death Must Not Find Us Thinking that we die...Too soon, too soon our banner draped for you...I would prefer the banner in the wind, not bound so tightly in a scarlet fold – not sodden with your people’s tears, but flashing on the pole we bear aloft down and beyond this dark lane of rags.”** These five men did not think twice before they executed their daily duties in serving Guyana. I am sure they did not think of death as they performed their duties to serve and protect us. They paid the ultimate.

On a more personal note, we pay special homage to **Colonel Michael Shahoud**, who after obtaining his Legal Education Certificate in 2014, was seconded to the DPP’s Chambers, he was then Major Michael Shahoud. We at the DPP’s Office fondly remember him as a dedicated State Counsel who exercised common courtesies, was always jocular and of a kindred spirit with that mischievous smile and glint in his eyes.

We ask that Brigadier Omar Khan and his Officers and Ranks take comfort in knowing that ALL Guyana support and grieve with tem at this tragic time.

We stand united in our grief as we remember the words of our national Pledge, **“I pledge myself to honour always the Flag of Guyana, to love my fellow citizens, and to be loyal to my country, and to dedicate my energies towards the happiness and prosperity of Guyana.”** These men were loyal and dedicated their energies with full honour.

We are thankful that soldiers Lieutenant Andio Michael Crawford and Corporal Dwayne Jackson are with us today. We understand their physical and mental pain; they have experienced such a traumatic incident. We wish them a speedy recovery.

We pray that by God's Grace they will be well.

God's Blessings to you all.