

Violence in Paradise

Empowering Caribbean Police with Technology to Combat Organized Crime

Introduction

Caribbean countries are experiencing a significant surge in organized crime and lethal violence. The increase in drug production in South America, the expansion and competition among gangs, and the easy accessibility of firearms have resulted in escalating homicide rates linked to gun, drug, and human trafficking. Firearm proliferation has reached pandemic proportions in the Caribbean. Gang violence is contributing to societal breakdowns in Latin America and the Caribbean, which, despite only comprising approximately 8% of the world’s population, account for 29% of global homicides annually.¹ An estimated 2.5 million people are subjected to forced labour, including sexual exploitation, worldwide, with 250,000 (10%) located in Latin America and the Caribbean.²

Despite experiencing rising, record levels of violence, many Caribbean nations’ police services continue to face ongoing and significant challenges. Law enforcement departments in these nations often operate in isolation from each other, contending with highly fluid transnational criminals and gangs. The challenges just continue to mount!

Technological advancements are providing valuable tools to aid police in combating crime. Natural Language Search capabilities on indexed documents combined with Machine Learning using Artificial Intelligence (AI) enable more efficient means to access information in a timely manner. Additionally, secure cloud-based computing, biometric technology, smart cruisers, body cameras, gun detection (AI) software and drones (including counter-drone technologies) enhance the safety and efficiency of police forces. However, the operations of transnational gangs exploiting the Caribbean as a distribution hub for trafficking necessitates more collaborative solutions. Consequently, technology must focus on bolstering crime-fighting efforts and addressing the unique challenges faced by each and all of the nations in the region.

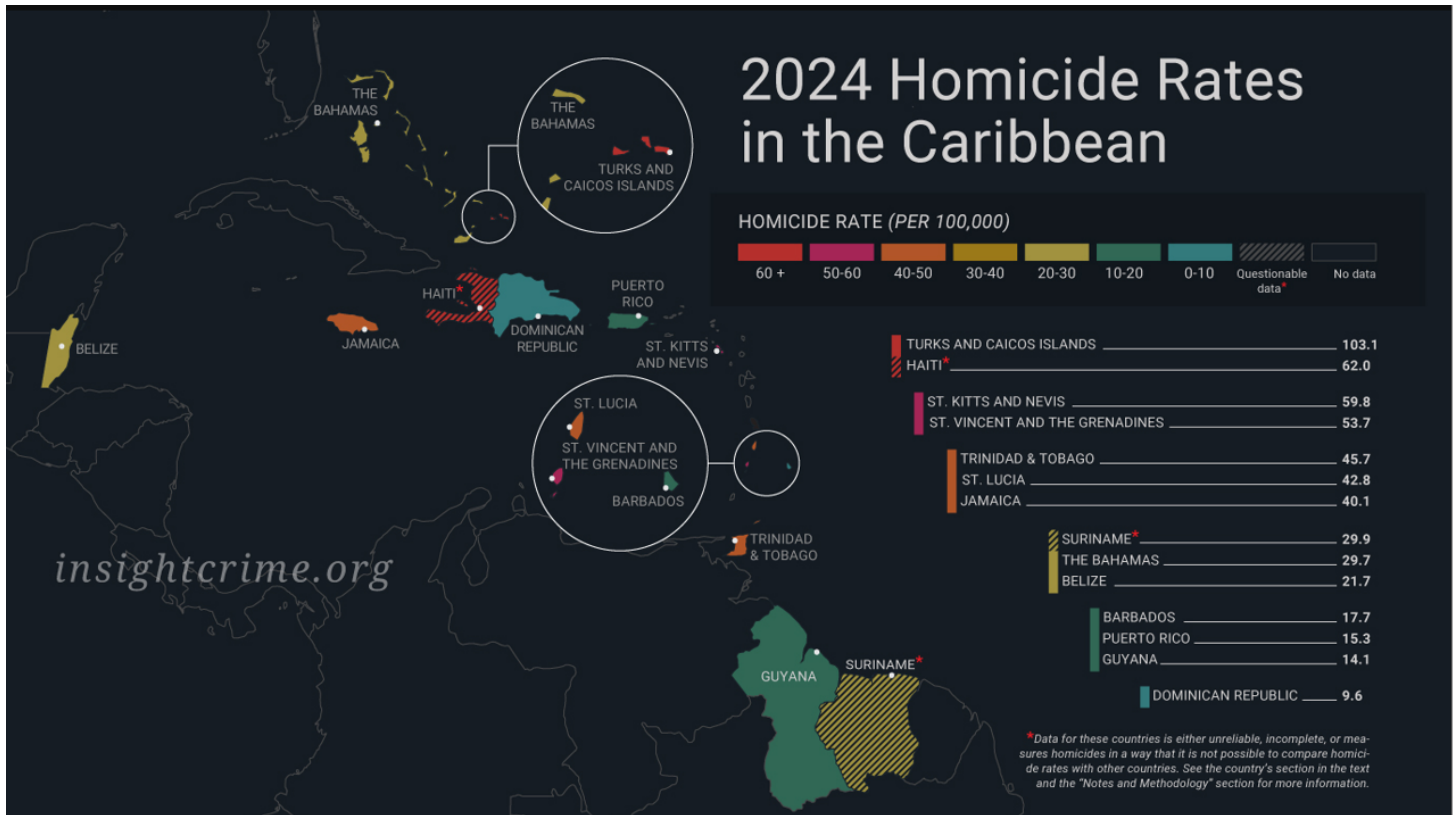
FACTS

- **The integration of biometric identification systems in criminal justice has reduced identity theft cases by 80% in some regions.**
- **The use of body cameras by law enforcement officers has led to a 40% decrease in use-of-force incidents.**
- **Use of drones in search and rescue operations has decreased response times by 50% in emergency situations.**

WORLDMETRICS.ORG REPORT 2024, Technology in Criminal Justice: A Data-Driven Evolution in Law Enforcement.

1. Igarape Institute, Homicide Monitor.

2. UN. GIFT, Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking: The Facts.



Transforming Crime Prevention: A Regional Crime & Gang Database for the Caribbean Region

Criminal organizations and gangs exploit the geographical complexity of the Caribbean region to traffic illicit goods to North America, Europe, and beyond. The region's vast coastlines and intricate maritime borders present significant challenges in monitoring and tracking criminal activity. While some cooperation exists among the nations in the region, it falls far short of what is needed for effective countermeasures. Addressing the threat posed by transnational gangs demands a unified, coordinated effort and response across these countries, a feat that has proven difficult and challenging—until now.

OmniSystems Incorporated, a leader in customer-centric information technology, has developed an innovative application that aggregates data on criminal activities from across the Caribbean into a single Regional Crime & Gang Database. This database can collect and integrate data from across the region. Whether the data is from law enforcement agencies, intelligence reports, social media, community inputs or another sources, OmniSystems Incorporated ensures seamless integration for both national and regional databases. This powerful tool enables seamless information sharing among the participating region's police forces, enhancing their ability to track, respond to, and ultimately prevent criminal activities with greater speed and efficiency.

With extensive experience working alongside the Government of the United States (U.S.) Virgin Islands, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Army National Guard, OmniSystems Incorporated is well versed in the unique challenges faced by governments and the military. For nearly 20 years, Omnisystems has been a trusted partner to the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), demonstrating a deep understanding of what it takes to combat crime effectively in the region.

In addition, their platform is compliant with the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) and the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA).

FACTS

- Adoption of cloud-based case management systems has improved data sharing among agencies by 40%.
- Cloud-based evidence storage systems have reduced data retrieval times by 50% in criminal investigations.
- 60% of law enforcement agencies use social media monitoring tools to gather intelligence and prevent crime.
- In the U.S., over 90% of criminal cases involve digital evidence like emails, text messages, and social media data.
- 93% of law enforcement agencies in the U.S. are using social media for investigations, crime prevention, and community engagement.

WORLDMETRICS.ORG REPORT 2024, *Technology in Criminal Justice: A Data-Driven Evolution in Law Enforcement.*

Technological Advancements Enhancing Law Enforcement’s Fight Against Crime

Along with an aggregate crime & gang database, and real-time intelligence sharing across the region, there are additional advanced tools law enforcement agencies have started to rely on in fighting crime such as modern data collection systems, AI, drones and body-worn cameras.

Data Collection

Investigative data collection has transformed from paper records to sophisticated digital systems, enabling seamless information sharing across jurisdictions. These advancements enhance crime pattern detection, streamline investigations, allocate resources efficiently, and reduce redundancies, leading to faster responses and greater public safety.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Biometrics

AI-powered software tools, such as those used for predictive policing, gun detection, and license plate reading, help prevent crimes and accelerate case resolutions. Biometrics—analysing unique physical and behavioural traits like fingerprints, voice patterns, facial recognition, and DNA—has advanced significantly with AI integration, providing unmatched accuracy and speed in identifying suspects.

Drones

Drones have evolved from wartime tools to invaluable assets for modern policing. They aid law enforcement in evidence collection, surveillance, traffic accident documentation, crowd control, search and rescue, fire management, and crime investigations. By providing aerial views, drones empower officers to make informed decisions and enhance operational efficiency and safety.

FACTS

- Digital evidence management systems have saved law enforcement agencies over \$5 million in storage costs annually.¹
- Biometric identification systems have improved accuracy in suspect identifications by 95% in criminal investigations.¹
- One U.S. City using drones as first responders reported that out of 18,000 responses: 2,512 DFR-assisted arrests; avoided dispatch of ground unit 4,177 times; DFR first on scene 13,500 times; 94 seconds average response time.²

1. WORLDMETRICS.ORG REPORT 2024, *Technology in Criminal Justice: A Data-Driven Evolution in Law Enforcement.*

Criminal organizations across the spectrum are also leveraging drone technologies to expand and advance their illicit trade. Commercial drones are readily available, relatively inexpensive, and they can be used to surveil law enforcement agencies, attack bureaus and agencies, and even target high-ranking law enforcement and government officials. Malicious actors can also use drones for terror attacks against personnel and infrastructure. Advanced Counter-Drone Detection and Mitigation technologies are rapidly changing the battlefield in crime fighting and are quickly becoming a necessity in modern policing.

Drones in the Caribbean:

- **Guyana Police and Defence Force:** Joint operations for crime and traffic enforcement.
- **Cayman Islands:** Monitoring borders cost-effectively, allowing focus on intelligence-led operations.
- **Caribbean Nations:** Partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to use drones for spotting drug traffickers' submarines and fast boats during covert operations.

Body Cams

Body cams are now critical for accountability, transparency, and citizen complaints investigations. They also enhance officer training by identifying and addressing interaction gaps. Advanced models with live-streaming capabilities enable real-time footage sharing, communication with control centres, and coordinated responses, ensuring officers are always connected and supported.

These technologies collectively enhance law enforcement's efficiency, responsiveness, and ability to protect communities, ensuring a safer and more secure environment, consequently leading to greater police legitimacy.

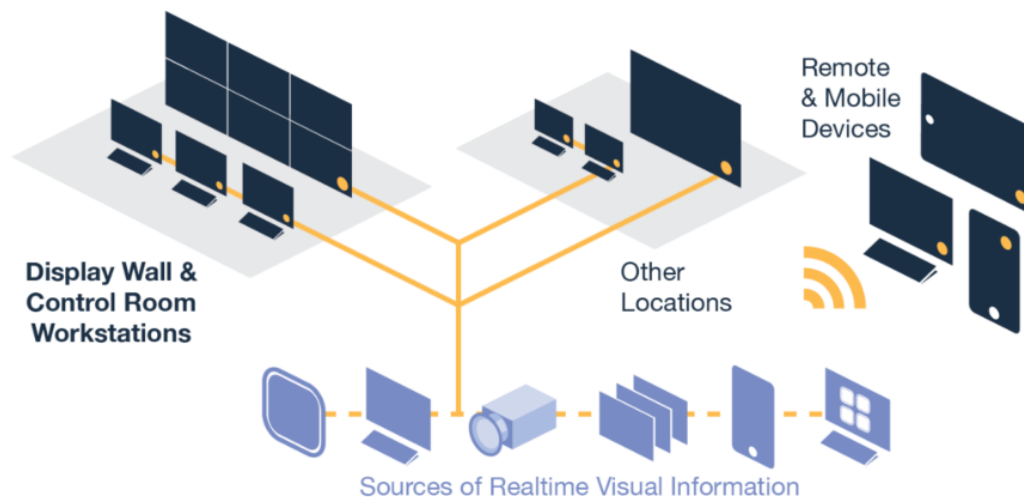
Unifying Real-Time Data for Law Enforcement: Overcoming the Challenges of Fragmented Systems

Police Forces face a growing challenge in managing the overwhelming influx of timely data, making it difficult to connect critical information in real-time during incidents. This challenge is compounded by the disconnected systems currently employed by many of the nations across the region, making information sharing almost impossible, when seconds matter most.

How Activu is Revolutionizing Control Room Operations and Enhancing Real-Time Crime Centre Effectiveness

Digital technologies are redefining the operations of Real Time Crime Centres (RTCC) and law enforcement. Activu Corporation's cutting-edge software platform, vis/ability, is at the forefront of this transformation, revolutionizing how control rooms handle real-time information in the most user-friendly way. Vis/ability from Activu seamlessly integrates diverse monitoring systems, including gun detection, facial recognition, live camera feeds, maps and more. As the only critical operations platform capable of unifying signals from any system to drive automated video wall content, vis/ability generates bespoke, real-time dashboards for unmatched situational awareness. Operators receive relevant information they need, wherever they are, ensuring that when an incident occurs, a tailored dashboard of apps, cameras, and systems, enable a swift response. Thousands of command-and-control centres in North America rely on Activu to support mission-critical functions in Law Enforcement/Public Safety, Transportation Management, Emergency Management, and Energy Monitoring – including DHS who is an active collaborator in Caribbean law enforcement.

Vis/ability from Activu empowers teams to access critical information and collaborate in real-time, whether from smartphones, laptops, or command centres. It automatically aggregates cameras, geolocated maps, and other pertinent data into a targeted, interactive canvas, displayed across command centre video walls, breakout rooms, remote devices within your jurisdiction, and other agencies across the Caribbean region, if necessary. Alerts can be configured to instantly populate the operational picture when threats, criminals, or gangs are detected.



With vis/ability from Activu, incidents are managed in real-time, unifying all networked assets into a single, intuitive, drag-and-drop interface. This eliminates the need to juggle multiple tools or search for the right information, empowering law enforcement to respond rapidly and resolve situations efficiently. The platform ensures seamless collaboration among team members, whether in the control room, out in the field, or wherever duty calls.

Vis/ability from Activu also facilitates a unified response with Public Safety teams, enabling effortless sharing and collaboration across internal and external stakeholders. Content can be shared from any location via laptop, iPad, or mobile phone, with easy scalability for new buildings, rooms, or offices.

Additional Benefits of Vis/ability:

- Eliminates the need for hardware-based video wall processors, enabling fast and cost-effective deployment.
- Leveraging existing screens and video walls, augmenting existing investments.
- Provides mission-critical 24x7 support and remote system monitoring.
- Offers low-cost redundancy & seamless software upgrades.
- Meets stringent security standards, including ISO 27001 certification and authorization to operate in government and military environments such as the Pentagon, NASA and U.S. Military control rooms.

Founded in 1983, Activu was the first U.S.-based company to develop control room visualization technology. Today, more than 1,400 control rooms, monitoring centres, and operations centres rely on Activu's software, systems, and services, benefiting the daily lives of billions. Vis/ability from Activu is a software platform, for control rooms and beyond, that breaks down communication barriers, fostering a unified response system across internal and external teams, including police, real-time crime centres, fire departments, emergency operation centres, and more.

Conclusion

The collaboration between **OmniSystems Incorporated** and **vis/ability from Activu** offers a powerful and unified response to the complex challenges faced by Caribbean Region Police Forces and/or Departments in combating transnational crimes. By integrating advanced analytical tools such as AI and ML, law enforcement can identify patterns, predict criminal and gang movements, and assess threat levels with unprecedented accuracy. The implementation of blockchain technology can further ensure data integrity and security, while a scalable cloud infrastructure supports the growing demands of data volume and user access.

Activu provides a single, common interface, designed with accessibility and customization in mind. By aggregating the above applications along with (virtually any) other digital content allows law enforcement personnel to quickly tailor dashboards to minimize response time and maximize the rate of analysis and interdiction. This approach not only enhances security but also facilitates informed decision-making, allowing agencies to deploy resources more effectively. The strengthened regional cooperation and information sharing fostered by this system contributes to a unified front against criminal and gang-related threats, protecting both communities and vital tourist destinations.

As systems incorporating these capabilities are gradually rolled out across the Caribbean Islands and Central American countries, continuous improvement and feedback mechanisms will ensure that they evolve to meet the region's needs. By safeguarding economic stability and fostering regional collaboration, this initiative marks a significant step forward in the fight against transnational crime, ultimately leading to safer communities and a more secure future for all.