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BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joint Investigative Efforts Lead to Numerous Arrests and Subsequent Repatriation of Forty-two Migrants

Today at 11:11am Bahamasair's flight CF BHR departed Lynden Pindling International Airport for Freeport, Grand Bahama with eleven (11) convicted Haitian nationals on board inclusive of eight (8) adult males and three (3) adult females.

Upon arrival to Freeport, an additional thirty-one (31) convicted Haitian nationals consisting of thirteen (13) adult females, three (3) minor females, thirteen (13) adult males and two (2) minor males boarded the flight resulting in a total of forty-two (42) migrants enroute to Port Au Prince, Haiti. This repatriation exercise was led by Immigration Officials assisted by officers of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

On Monday 12th October, 2020, a joint extensive investigative operation by Immigration and Police officers resulted in the arrest of Bahamian national Shane Boothe, Captain of a Bahamian registered vessel which Police intercepted in the Freeport Harbour with twelve (12) Haitian nationals and one Brazilian national on board.

Mr. Boothe appeared before the Magistrate Court in Freeport and was subsequently convicted and fined \$6000.00 for Harboring. Further investigations revealed that his co-conspirator, a Bahamian of Haitian descent is still at large with both agencies vigorously in search of him.

Monday's operation led to the arrest of an additional nine (9) Haitian Nationals. All of whom were convicted and sentenced for Illegal Landing and Overstaying. The group was ordered deported at the earliest opportunity.

Ten (10) migrants from this exercise were repatriated onboard today's flight. The remaining twelve (12) migrants who were unable to pay their fines in a timely manner will be repatriated in an upcoming exercise. Two (2) migrants were unable to pay their fines and are expected to be transferred to New Providence to commence their sentence.

The Department will continue its commitment to carrying out the mandates of our agency to combat illegal migration by establishing effective border control management in compliance with the Statute Laws of our country.

End.

Mission Statement: *To regulate the movement of people across the borders of The Bahamas so as to ensure the security, facilitate economic advancement and promote the harmonious social development of The Bahamas through the collaborative efforts of responsible government and non-government agencies both nationally and internationally.*