

## Jamaica No Longer Leading U.S. Deportee List

Just when you thought Jamaica just cannot catch a break on the crime front, it seems it has. Interestingly, latest U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) data now show the country no longer leads the Caribbean for deportees sent back.

Infact, Jamaica is doing so well that it's not even in the top 14 list of nations receiving the most deportees in 2009. Instead, for the Caribbean region, the top three nations receiving the most deportees last year, were the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti.

It is a marked difference from previous years, when Jamaica always dominated the top listing. And there is also more good news for the wider Caribbean.

Less deportees were actually sent back to those three nations and the region last year, according to an analysis of the data.

Some 1,826 were deported to the Dominican Republic, down from 1,934 in 2008 and 2,118 in 2007. One thousand, five hundred and fifty-nine were sent back to Cuba, down from a whopping 3,896 and 4,932 in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Haiti received 719 of its own last year, compared to 1,098 in the previous year. Jamaica recorded 675 in 2009, compared to 1,641 in 2008. However, most of those returned were criminal aliens.

Deportees have long been blamed for an escalation of crime in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

One hundred and ninety eight deportees were sent back to Trinidad and Tobago last year while 162 were returned to Guyana. Other countries recorded only double digit numbers. The Bahamas were forced to accept 33 while Barbados received 30 and Antigua and Barbuda, 14.

Twenty-three were sent back to St. Lucia, 22 to St. Vincent and five to St. Kitts. Eighteen were sent back to Suriname while 19 were returned to Grenada. Four each were deported back to Aruba, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Mexico continued to lead the deportees statistics table.

Mexican nationals accounted for 86 percent of the 613,003 aliens apprehended in 2009. The next leading countries were Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, China, and Brazil. A total of 393,000 foreign nationals were removed from the United States last year, the seventh consecutive record high. Of that number, 128,000 were known criminal aliens.

The number of removals increased 10 percent to 393,289 in 2009 from 358,886 in 2008. The number of non-expedited removals increased 17 percent from 2008 to 2009.

Some 580,000 foreign nationals were returned to their home countries without a removal order. Eighty-five percent of returns in 2009 involved Mexican or Canadian aliens. The next leading countries were the Philippines and China with 3 percent each and Ukraine with one percent.