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PRESS RELEASE

It has been reported to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association that a Female Police Officer has alleged that she has been raped and indecently assaulted by this Country's Prime Minister. This allegation is rather grave and serious.

We in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association are calling for this matter to be treated like any other matter without fear nor favour and allow justice to prevail.

In the circumstances, we are aware that this allegation raises quite serious issues:

- (a) That no man is above the law.
- (b) That these are allegations and a person is innocent until the allegations are proven.
- (c) That any woman who claims that she has been violated or any act of violence has been committed against her is entitled to protection under the law – due process regardless of who the alleged perpetrator is

This is a matter in which the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association calls for fairness which could only be achieved by allowing this matter to proceed by the way sanctioned by the law, which is through the Court's process.

We call on the relevant authorities to do what they are mandated by law to do and we call on the support of regional and international organizations in this matter to ensure that due process occurs.

Dated: 1st February 2008

Jeanie Ollivierre
SVG Public Relations/Education Officer