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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Cabinet Condemns Heinous Act of Domestic Violence and Reaffirms Zero Tolerance Policy**

*Belmopan, October 22, 2025.*

The Cabinet, at its meeting on Tuesday, expressed deep sorrow and outrage at the recent heinous act of domestic violence that claimed the lives of a Belizean woman and her young son in the Orange Walk District. The tragedy, which involved an act of arson perpetrated by the woman's former partner, has also resulted in the death of another child who succumbed to her burn injuries at the KMH on October 22, 2025.

Cabinet condemns this horrific act in the strongest possible terms and extends heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of the victims. This incident underscores the urgent need for continued national action to address and prevent domestic violence in all its forms.

Cabinet reaffirms its **zero-tolerance position on domestic violence** and has committed to strengthen the national framework for prevention, protection, and prosecution. The Government will continue to support the relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs; the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries; and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, to ensure that survivors of domestic violence receive the care, protection, and justice they deserve.

Domestic violence is not a private matter but a national concern that threatens the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of Belizean families and communities. The Government of Belize calls on all Belizeans and all local entities, including the churches and civil society, to join in collective action to end gender-based and domestic violence across the nation.

**Ends**