

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Capture Of J'wa Charlery Represents 'Strong Message' That Criminals Will Be Brought To Justice, U.S. Marshals Say

VIC News / **Published On July 25, 2015 09:48 AM /**

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ST. CROIX -- The capture of J'wa Charlery, who was recently placed on the U.S. Marshals top 15 Most Wanted list, should serve as a warning to criminals in the United States "that you will not be successful crossing global boundaries to avoid prosecution," said U.S. Marshals Service Director Stacia Hylton, in a press release issued on Friday.

"We worked tirelessly with our international and domestic law enforcement partners to ensure Charlery faced justice. I want to commend the dedicated men and women who spent countless hours investigating this case and tracking down leads, which ultimately

lead to this successful arrest," Hylton added.

Charlery is wanted by the Richmond, Virginia Police Department for allegedly murdering Eboniece Escobar on Nov. 2, 2014, in a Richmond hotel. The following day, the U.S. Marshals joined the fugitive investigation for Charlery at the request of local authorities; they added him to the 15 Most Wanted list on July 2, 2015.

The fugitive investigation gained momentum when the U.S. Marshals and the Richmond Police Department developed information that Charlery fled to the British Virgin Islands. With credible investigative leads from law enforcement partners, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) converged on a remote location on the island of Tortola, and found Charley standing outside of a tent, where they [took him into custody without incident](#). A subsequent search of Charley's hideout yielded a large amount of cash and two loaded handguns.

"The arrest of J'Wa Charlery is a testament to the strength of our cooperative law enforcement relationships both here and abroad," said Robert Mathieson, U.S. Marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia. "In regard to his capture, our combined efforts in this case proved that it was not a matter of if but when. Time was always on our side."

Charlery is currently being held by RVIPF authorities in Tortola.

"Thanks to the brave actions of our officers, this armed and dangerous fugitive has been detained without any loss of life or injury," RVIPF's Deputy Commissioner Alwyn James said.