

Police storm Telemedia Friday night in second takeover of Telemedia | Channel5Belize.com

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As soon as the judgment was delivered, Dean Boyce headed over to the Telemedia headquarters on Saint Thomas Street and convened the Telemedia board of directors and met with employee representatives. Accompanying Boyce was one of his attorney's, Godfrey Smith. But later in the dead of the night, Karen Bevans entered the building while Boyce and Smith were barred from entering. The police guarded the Telemedia compound. According to Smith, the officers were not looking for drugs or ammunition; instead they were complicit in the government's second takeover of Telemedia.

Godfrey Smith, Attorney for Dean Boyce



Godfrey Smith

"We took command and control. Mister Boyce had board of directors meeting. I went home in time to see Dean Barrow on the news saying he respects the judgment; he wants to demonstrate to the people of Belize that the government is not above the rule of law and therefore the judgment took immediate effect. I saw Net Vasquez similarly saying—well he left because he got news that the judgment reversed the nationalization so why stay around. Obviously in the interim, the Prime Minister had a change of heart. I believe that people like Gian Ghandi who drafted the legislation that has

come crashing down spectacularly in disaster is left with egg on his face and has scurried to prompt the Prime Minister to stall and drag this out as well as other party hacks. You have to bear in mind that the Prime Minister made this nationalization the defining act of his political career when he did it two years ago. People may forget, but he was so bold and brash about it—everybody was cheering and this was defined as the defining act. Now it has come crashing down in ruin and it has huge implications of course for him personally and politically. And he has given in to the hawks in his party that have said look you have to fight this tooth and nail. But what does fighting it mean? As Lois Young has said on an interview given with Sharon Marin, it's only a matter of time before Dean Boyce gets the enforcement order and then they won't be able to resist. So obviously the question is: well why are they doing this? Obviously it's a game involving covering tracks, removing sensitive material, shredding papers, removing assets belonging to the company and they basically are being bad-minded and mean to stall the process for as long as possible. When we went out there, we went out there because we were told that people were in there removing things. So we went there and the place was surrounded by police officers. We attempted to enter and they said you could not. We asked; under what authority are you on this property in any event? You can only be here if you've come to search for drugs or ammunition. Have you come for any of that? Well we are working on orders of our superiors. I informed them that they were trespassing. They were unlawfully preventing Mister Boyce from entering the property as he was entitled to do. And of course they ignored all of that and said we are acting on our orders Mister Smith. We don't want to hear about law or what the court said; we are taking instructions from Belmopan and you need to come with a perfected order. Now let's just quickly

get to the bottom of what the government is saying. Once a court says you that are entitled to something, lawabiding citizens will respect it. There are some however who will put their middle finger up at the court and say I won't come out until you get an enforcement order from court fi bring police fi take me out. Now is that the kind of behavior you expect from your government? The Prime Minister had the position correctly first when he said we don't want police confrontation; the judgment takes effect. Why fight that. Now he's obviously given in to those who would say no."



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