

▼ Siblings leave Santa Cruz home since last week...

Cops find teens hiding in bushes

SANTA CRUZ
Gyasi Gonzales
gyasi.gonzales@trinidadexpress.com

TEENAGE siblings who left their Jagan Village, Santa Cruz, home on February 5 and were reported missing were found "safe and sound" yesterday by the Santa Cruz police.

On the morning of February 5, Britney Cassandra-Eligon, 15, and Samuel Narine, 14, left the home of their aunt, Victoria Narine.

They took a few personal items and when they did not return home that night, their aunt and also legal guardian made a report at the Santa Cruz Police.

In an interview with the *Express* at her home yesterday, before she found out the children had been located by the police, Narine explained that for reasons she did not want to divulge, the

children were removed from the home of their parents and placed in the care of the Children's Authority where they were under their supervision for over a year.

She said however that in September last year, she took them in after being cleared by the authority to do so.

She added: "There is no problem with the relationship with us, but they do want their own way and they don't want to be restricted."

She also speculated: "They may have been influenced by other people who promise them something...I don't know."

"But," she said, "these children need to be in school, and without going to school, they have no future so wherever they are, whoever is seeing this, get them to come home."

At the time of the interview, she also expressed her



'TIME TO COME HOME': Victoria Narine, aunt of missing teenagers Samuel Narine and Britney Cassandra-Eligon, speaks to the media yesterday at her Santa Cruz home. The siblings were found yesterday in Santa Cruz by officers of the Santa Cruz Police Station. —Photo: GYASI GONZALES

dread as she had read recent reports of girls being found murdered after they left their homes.

That was up to yesterday morning as she had no idea the children had been found.

Last meal since Friday

According to officers of the Santa Cruz Police Station, the teenagers were found at 11.30 a.m. in a community known as Gasparillo in Santa Cruz.

Police said they continued their search from Monday night into yesterday morning

and during the search, both teenagers were found hiding in some bushes. The search was spearheaded by Insp Singh, along with Cpl Dhill, McKenna and PC Dwarika.

The police also added that two relatives of the children were up to last night being interrogated in connection with their disappearance.

Police said Narine and Cassandra-Eligon told them their last meal was on Friday, so the officers pooled together and got them a meal and a drink before handing them over to the Police Service's Child Protection Unit.