

## CORAL GARDENS ATROCITY OF 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1963 IS A DEMAND FOR REPARATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.

The Government of Jamaica's declaration of war on innocent Rastafari and the blind eye to vigilante justice against innocent Rastafari must be accounted for. The Government of Jamaica need to comply with resolution #32 & 33 of the Durban Declaration which is to "recognize the value and diversity of the cultural heritage of African and people of African descent and affirm the importance and necessity of ensuring their full integration into social, economical and political life with a view of facilitating their full participation at all levels in the decision making process..."

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coral Gardens Atrocity/massacre better known as "Bad Friday" April 12<sup>th</sup> 2013, is not a time for jumping up on a stage show with a bag of rhetoric, having a picnic, socializing with friends and associates, or even chanting a Nyah Binghi in the name of Coral Gardens Atrocity.

This is the time to demand answers from the Public Defender of Jamaica who had collected testimonies months ago from the few the remaining survivors of "Bad Friday". It is a known fact that the statute of limitations has passed for a court settlement, therefore the ball is in into the Public Defender's court to claim justice for Rastafari in the Jamaican Parliament according to law of the land, or maybe this is just another political façade of the elite.

Those who have suffered are willing and able to speak on the matter. Although now ripe in age, and plagued with life-threatening ailments, their memory of the event is like yesterday.

The Government of the day - through their Prime Minister - made a nationwide decree to "Bring in all Rastafari dead or alive. If the jail can't hold them we will dig trenches in Bogue cemetery and bury them." Is this justice?

Now this is a clear violation of one's Fundamental Rights and Freedoms that were enshrined in the Jamaican Constitution Order in Council 1962, Chapter 3, which reads:

"Whereas, every person in Jamaica is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, has the right wherever his race, place of origin, political opinion, color creed or sex, --to each and all the following:

- (a) Life, liberty, security of the person, the enjoyment of property and the *protection of the law*.
- (b) Freedom of conscience, of expression and of peaceful assembly and association.

Who is there to stand up for justice for the many innocent Rastafari who were brutalized by the hands of police and brainwashed bloodthirsty citizens? Some of the so-called intellectual Rastafari are making fancy speeches and now planning another stage show to boost their egos. Why waste hard earned cash on entertainment? Know that a stage show will have no impact on the present situation, unless the money earned from it will be going towards the employment of consultants and attorneys to pursue the matter.

The fact is that there was no accountability from the 2012 stage show. Will 2013 be any different with the same team? No chanters had ever won any struggle for equal rights and justice. Know that the Coral Gardens Atrocity is a political issue.

There must be a mobilizing force to bring all progressive Rastafari to lobby for reparation from the Government of Jamaica for the Coral Gardens Atrocity of April 1963. A closure must be brought to this urgent matter, sooner than later

From the records of those alive there are approximately thirty (30) survivors of 'Bad Friday' now residing in Montego bay, five (5) in the parish of Trelawney, four (4) in the parish of Hanover, two (2) in the parish of Westmoreland. Those who have died from Western Jamaica amount to fifty four (54). However with in depth research more can be accounted for.

Those who have suffered are now in their twilight years of high seventy (70), eighty 80 years or more. Why should the young and able not be in a position to dish out any food in their plate or make claims on the behalf of those who have suffered without proper recompense? That is not the Rastafari way and it stands against the Nyah Binghi creed.

International Law recognizes that those who commit crimes against humanity must make reparations. Therefore as such Rastafari have a legal claim. Why do some who chant Rastafari think that having a party and a feel-good event at the expense of those who have suffered will be acceptable in this day and age?

How about having a mass rally with among Rastafari mansions and well-wishers to agitate politically for a speedy resolution through the Jamaican Parliament?

Is that too hard to accomplish? Or is it easier to chant, smoke herb and cook a big pot? The miracle won't happen, iyah!

What a woe in a Babylon when the cries of the Incients rise up against all those who are using their names to butter their bread.

Respect.

Ras Flako Tafari.

Rastafari think tank