



Caribbean Rastafari Organization

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Statement on Haiti

The Caribbean Rastafari Organization (CRO Inc.) expresses solidarity, support and sympathy for the people of Haiti in their hour of desperate need following the devastation of the earthquake of 12th January 2010.

The CRO also echoes the concerns of the people of Haiti that humanitarian concerns be given precedence over so-called security issues, and calls for the reduction of the overwhelming military presence in the country in favour of an increase in personnel concerned with aid and support.

The CRO additionally cautions the international community not to exploit the present situation to extend imperialist control and policies over Haiti, which control and policies have been traditionally detrimental to the aspirations, economy and people of the noble country of Haiti.

The CRO supports the view expressed by Dr. Norman Girvan that real and sustained recovery and reconstruction must address Haiti's longer term development, environmental and governance issues and join his call for :

“The immediate cancellation of all bilateral and multilateral debt owed by Haiti.

The IMF to immediately convert the US\$100 million emergency loan to Haiti into a grant provided without any conditions.”

In relation to governance, the CRO calls for the return of the kidnapped and abducted Haitian leader Bertrand Aristide and the legitimization of his “Famille Lavalas” political party. Further the CRO calls for the repayment by France of the millions of dollars extorted from Haiti 200 years ago.

The CRO also commends the offer made by the government of Senegal to welcome Haitians wishing to enter Senegal and see this as a welcome step in the endeavour of Africans in the Diaspora to return to the land of their forefathers.

30 January 2010