

**CARIBBEAN RASTAFARI ORGANIZATION  
STATEMENT OF PROTEST AND DEMAND FOR CANCELLATION OF  
THE “CANAL ZONE” EXHIBIT**

The Caribbean Rastafari Organization, as one of the legitimate and authorized representatives of the global RasTafari community, strongly condemns the “Canal Zone” exhibit of Richard Prince recently shown at the Gagosian Gallery in New York. The Caribbean Rastafari Organisation further demands the cancellation of all future showings of this work for the following reasons.

The exhibit distorts photographs of Rastafari persons taken in Jamaica by Patrick Cariou, and includes salacious depictions of naked women in juxtaposition to various Rastafari brethren and sistren, some of whom are among the Elders of Our Faith, to create images that are alien, bizarre, misrepresentative and pornographic. This is egregiously disrespectful of Rastafari culture and peoples, and reflects racial stereotyping that is morally offensive and that has no place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

So-called artistic license cannot permit the trivialization and abuse of a people still marginalized by race and gender to evoke images of subordination and exploitation of Africans and women. This is a legacy of the European colonial enterprise that continues to have a negative impact on African peoples in the Americas and it is a legacy that the Rastafari have resisted and condemned for nearly 80 years.

Rastafari at the vanguard of Pan-African Liberation ceaselessly demanding justice based on truth and right, find the Canal Zone exhibit distasteful, insensitive, insulting and totally unacceptable.

We are presently seeking legal advice in response to this travesty, paying particular attention to the ways in which this exhibit constitutes a breach of the Intellectual Property Rights of the Rastafari Nation. Such attacks on the hard-fought integrity and reputation of the Rastafari faith will be vigorously defended in the various courts of public opinion and of law globally, until such attackers know that Rastafari cannot and will not be exploited and disrespected for personal gain, without regard for the moral and spiritual underpinnings of our Faith and without there being serious repercussions being meted upon the enemies of our Faith. The Righteousness of Rastafari shall prevail!

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