

12th Summit of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation
Queen's Park, Barbados

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF I'AKOBI TACUMA MALONEY**

"Justice is the fundamental axiom for the survival of freedom and government"

His Imperial Majesty, Kadamawi Haile Selassie

We, the members and affiliates of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation gathered in Barbados for its 12th Summit from December 4-8, 2008, hereby resolve to support the justice-loving community in Barbados in the demand for an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the [death of Rastafari son I'Akobi Tacuma Maloney on the 17th of June 2008.](#)

The Rastafari Movement in the Caribbean Community has a chronicle of experiences with police brutality and too often fatal outcomes that are related to (i) general marginalization of and discrimination against Rastafari sons and daughters and (ii) the illegal status imposed upon the Rastafari sacramental herb, *Cannabis sativa*.

In the context of the so-called drug war, contrary to all scientific evidence, the State and its institution of law enforcement is draconian in its response to perceived harmful effects that this herb may have on some individuals. The profiling and criminalizing of Rastafari sons and daughters is therefore the status quo and the rampant abuse of police authority continues to rear its ugly head.

Given this history of brutality, discrimination and death, another life lost as a result of irregularities in police action and reporting, in the absence of other witnesses, warrant an independent investigation.

We further call on the Government of Barbados, in the best practice of democratic tradition, to honour the demand by over 5000 signatures petitioned and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados to bring this atrocity for the urgent demand of this country's political leaders.

"Our people have always been demanding justice. He who seeks justice knows the value of justice too. This testifies to the maturity of Our people...In general you – judges – should understand that you have been entrusted with the great responsibility of protecting the rights of the people and must therefore endeavour to serve with a spirit of selflessness and integrity so as to free yourselves from guilty consciences. We urge you to serve with integrity today so as to set a good precedent for posterity."

1. His Imperial Majesty, Kadamawi Haile Selassie."

8th December 2008