

**STATEMENT FROM THE RASTAFARI DELEGATION ON THE  
LAUNCH OF THE SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT, "DISCOVERING RASTAFARI!"**

Give thanks that on the occasion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Coronation of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Woizero Menen on November 2nd, 2007, the Smithsonian Institute has seen it fit to open the first Rastafari Exhibit in a major museum in the world, "Discovering Rastafari!"

We appreciate that at the dawn of the new Millennium (Ethiopia 2000) the historic significance of Rastafari is being recognized.

We understand the difficulty and natural constraints in showing a living, indigenous culture in a museum.

The Exhibit can only scratch the surface in edifying people about the history, beliefs, way of life and future goals of the Global Rastafari Community.

Our desire is for the millions of patrons who visit the Smithsonian annually to understand and not merely "discover Rastafari."

To truly understand Rastafari, one must search and study the relevant Bible verses pertaining to Ethiopia and the Throne and Covenant of David.

Of critical importance is a careful study and analysis of the words and deeds of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Woizero Menen of Ethiopia.

Repatriation is the ultimate goal of Rastafari and of special significance is the land grant to Rastafari by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I in Shashamane, Ethiopia and the vibrant, rapidly developing community of Rastafarians who have lived there for over thirty (30) years.

We hope that the Exhibit will eradicate many of the myths surrounding Rastafari and broaden the knowledge of the international community to understand that Rastafari is based upon principles of peace, love, truth, justice, unity and the liberation of all oppressed peoples of the world.