



## News Release

### AFRICA UNITE

In observance of Black History Month, the Bob Marley Foundation and the Rita Marley Foundation proudly present “**AFRICA UNITE**”, a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Honor Rebel Robert “Bob” Nesta Marley, O.M. Planned events of this *Exodus Movement of Jah People* from across the globe for the unification of Africa will include an opening ceremony at the Addis Ababa City Hall, a Book Launching of *No Woman, No Cry: My Life with Bob Marley*, by Nana Rita Marley, O.D., Rare Photo Exhibitions, Panel Discussions and Banquet. There will also be a historic **AFRICA UNITE** Concert featuring the Marley Family, I-Threes, Baaba Maal, Angelique Kidjo, and Yousou N’dor. Several African and Reggae artists are scheduled to perform.

**AFRICA UNITE Celebration:** an international historical event with a positive message of unification, highlighting a positive image of Ethiopia as a key player in Africa and Africa’s Diaspora development, growth, and commitment to peace, conflict resolution, gender and youth issues. Partners such as the African Union (AU), UNICEF, Save the Children, Ethiopia Tourism Commission, City Government of Addis Ababa, the World Bank and Special Guest Speaker Harry Belafonte ensure that **AFRICA UNITE** will facilitate the building of bridges between civil society, government and all stake holders in the development and unification of Africa, and its citizens: those at home on the Continent and those abroad in Africa’s Diaspora.

**AFRICA UNITE** will bring revenue generating opportunities to businesses, communities, and individuals. The disenfranchised will also benefit because part of the event proceeds will continue the Marley’s legacy of providing for the under-served. Projects to benefit from the Bob Marley Foundation and the Rita Marley Foundation **AFRICA UNITE** Celebration include Nurses of Israel Project Humanity Medical Center in Shashemane, the Shashemane School Project, the Konkonuru Village Project in Ghana, the Axum Orphanage Project, Bob Marley Schools with Save the Children.

For more information about **AFRICA UNITE** contact:

**[africaunite@bobmarleyfoundation.org](mailto:africaunite@bobmarleyfoundation.org)**



## PRESS RELEASE

A press conference was held at the African Union (AU) on Tuesday, 19 October 2004 for the **AFRICA UNITE Celebration**, planned for the month of February in Ethiopia to observe Black History Month and honor the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert “Bob” Nesta Marley, O.M.

Following up on an invitation from Chairman Alpha Konare of the African Union (AU), Nana Rita Marley, O.D. and Dr. Desta Meghoo-Peddie, Managing Director of the Bob Marley Foundation attended the First Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and Africa’s Diaspora. The historic conference held in Dakar, Senegal from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004, was attended by Heads of State, Nobel laureates, distinguished intellectuals, scholars and experts from Africa and the Diaspora.

A declaration for a decade of peace was supported by Nobel laureates Nelson Mandela and Wole Soyinka. And while referring to the slave trade as a crime against humanity, in his opening address, Professor Alpha Konare, Chair of the AU, said, *“To forget this crime or to minimize it would be tantamount to adding insult to injury and to sacrificing, for the second time...all those who inspired Bob Marley in his “Buffalo Soldier”...to fight for their survival: Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival!”*

Also, as a Rapporteur, Dr. Meghoo-Peddie helped to formulate the call for citizenship for Africans born in the Diaspora.

For more information about **AFRICA UNITE** contact:

**[africaunite@bobmarleyfoundation.org](mailto:africaunite@bobmarleyfoundation.org)**

## AFRICA UNITE 2005

### **Description**

The Bob Marley Foundation Ltd. USA and Rita Marley Foundation Ltd. USA are not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporations. The Foundations were established to provide assistance to organizations that conduct programs aimed at relieving poverty and suffering of infants, youths and the elderly, further to assist in the upliftment and empowerment of the oppressed.

*“We’re gonna help our people, help them right...” Smile Jamaica by Bob Marley*

### **Intent**

The Bob Marley Foundation and the Rita Marley Foundation will host the Honor-Rebel Robert Nesta Marley’s 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday in February 2005. As Brother Bob Marley was committed to seeing the unification and upliftment of Africa, it is only fitting that this event be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - the capital of Africa. The event is called **AFRICA UNITE**, honoring Brother Bob’s vision of African unity. Combining entertainment and education **AFRICA UNITE** will make a substantial impact on communities everywhere, particularly Ethiopia. The Marley Family, I-Three, Yousou N’ Dor, Angelique Kidjo, Peter Gabriel and other international artists will deliver a memorable musical affair to thousands live and millions via broadcast. They will also heighten international awareness about the disparity in education, health care, and the suffering of women and children. The artists are all committed to the cause and to the event. Proceeds generated go to the Bob and Rita Marley Foundations for projects in Africa and the Diaspora.

Bob Marley’s music speaks to and about the conditions of humanity. His voice was one of compassion, hope, and love. Several artists/human rights advocates now also voice their concerns in Africa. But over twenty years ago, Brother Bob was one of the first international artists to bring Africa and its struggles to the minds and hearts of the international community. The Marley Family is committed to Bob’s legacy as a champion for human rights. **AFRICA UNITE** will honor the Patriarch’s 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday and strengthen all those who work so hard to fulfill the same vision.

**AFRICA UNITE** includes a month long series of activities – to coincide with the Diaspora’s Black History month - including concerts, symposia, plenary sessions, art/photo exhibit, soccer clinics, and workshops. This event will strengthen relationships between the public and private sectors and civil society organizations including universities, community based organization, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Together, we will solidify our commitment to Africans at home and abroad.

**AFRICA UNITE** is an excellent opportunity for partners/sponsors to access various markets through Broadcast, DVD, and a host of other ancillary opportunities. The event may also serve as a telethon for donors to call or e-mail donations/pledges via Pay Pal. The event has a myriad of benefits to all involved, particularly the people of Ethiopia.

## **AFRICA UNITE – Bob Marley**

*Africans Unite, Afri-Africans Unite, yeh, Africans Unite  
'Cause we're moving right out of Babylon-we're grooving to our  
Father's land.  
Behold how good and how pleasant it would be, before God and man  
To see the unification of all Africans,  
As it's been said already, let it be done,  
We are the children of the higher man-We are the children of the  
Rasta man,  
United for the benefit of your people, unite 'cause its later  
than you think,  
Unite both abroad and at home, unite 'cause its later than you  
think.*

Robert Nesta Marley born in St. Ann, Jamaica on February 6, 1945, moved to a housing scheme called Trenchtown in 1957. It was in Trenchtown that Brother Bob would begin his musical journey with his Rastafari brothers Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer. It was Trenchtown where Brother Bob met and married his life partner a nurse and singer herself, Rita Marley. As teenagers they fought for their survival in a place where poverty and prejudice prevailed. This young couple was determined to change not only their lives, but the destiny of all sufferers.

Set in the genre of Reggae music, Bob's lyrics such as "*Emancipate yourself from mental slavery*" and "*Get up stand up, stand up for your rights*" and "*Africa Unite*" became anthems of self determination and self realization for Africans at home and abroad. His music slowly crossed ethnic, racial, and age barriers, topping international charts with songs of unification and upliftment, inspiring and enlightening peoples of the world. In 1974 Bunny Wailer and Peter Tosh no longer sang with Bob. Bob was joined by the I-Threes--namely Rita Marley, Marcia Griffiths, and Judy Mowatt.

The Bob Marley Foundation and Rita Marley Foundation are founded on the principles in the lyrics of Bob Marley and the Wailers and hence a natural progression for the development of Africa and the elimination of poverty and prejudice in the world. The Foundations are USA based not-for-profit corporations established to support organizations conducting programs aimed at relieving poverty and suffering of infants, youths and the elderly through education, health and environmental initiatives.

Brother Bob Marley sings in *Smile Jamaica*, "*We're gonna help our people, help them right...*" The Foundations help through partnerships with individuals, communities and similar NGO's, supporting various projects in Ethiopia, Ghana and Jamaica including the Shashemane Basic School established by Jamaican repatriates in Shashemane. Mary's Child – home for pregnant teenagers, many survivors of rape and incest, are also beneficiaries. The Foundations have also adopted the Konkonuru Basic School in Aburi, Ghana and the entire village has benefited from infrastructural improvements including

roads, electricity and accessible water supply. While there are many other projects including the Bob Marley Schools, breakfast programs and scholarships, Cedella Marley - the eldest daughter of Bob and Rita Marley a driving force on the Bob Marley Foundation's Board states simply, "Our work has just begun."

The **Africa Unite**, event celebrating the Honor Rebel Robert "Bob" Nesta Marley's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held in Ethiopia - the capital of Africa, residence of the Solomonic Royal Line, and birthplace and home to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union (AU). Through this event Ethiopia will be highlighted and reaffirmed as a major contributor to Africa's glorious past, present and future.

Committed to transparency, accountability and cooperation, Nana Rita Marley, the Marley Family, Dr. Desta Meghoo – Peddie, Foundations and Friends call upon Heads of State, Civil Society, Activists, Elders and Youths in Africa and worldwide to join us as we Unite Africa for the benefit of her people. Let us Unite Africa to end the violence, poverty, injustice and suffering that impacts the world!