

# Honour is a must - Reparation Now

They never accepted their condition, which is why they fought for freedom.

They were tortured and murdered for their activism - like the 77 burned alive in 1736 in Antigua; the 400 executed for joining Tacky and other Gold Coast Chiefs who led a war in St Mary, starting in 1760; the 50 who died in battle; the 70 executed in the field; the 300 taken to Bridgetown for trial, of which 144 were executed and 132 sent away to another island after the war of 1816 in Barbados.

After the 1823 war in Guyana, hundreds of rebels were hunted down and killed, including 200 who were beheaded as a warning to other enslaved people. Quamina, who had argued against the violent protest, was tracked down by dogs and some indigenous people and killed. In the 1831-32 war in Jamaica, 200 were killed in battle and about 344 executed after "trials".

## NO COMPENSATION

When slavery finally ended, those who survived it received no compensation, unlike the planters who received £20 million in cash and an estimated £25-27 million in the 1834-38 free labour scam dubbed "The Apprenticeship System". While we mourn the murder of George Floyd in the United States, which has given rise to the escalation of the Black Lives Matter Movement, we should use the opportunity it has provided to intensify the reparation movement so that his death will not be in vain.

We are aware that some religious, educational, and financial institutions have now expressed regret, even offered apologies for their part in a crime against humanity, with some promising reparative atonement.

However, the countries that facilitated their involvement have been reticent on the matter of reparation despite the overwhelming evidence that it is a right. We call on Britain and other complicit states to follow the example of these institutions and engage in a meaningful reparatory-justice conversation with the descendants of the victims of the African Holocaust.

As Sir Ellis Clarke, the Trinidadian Government's United Nations representative to a subcommittee of the Committee on Colonialism, said in 1964: "An administering power ... is not entitled to extract for centuries all that can be got out of a colony, and when that has been done, to relieve itself of its obligations ... . Justice requires that reparation be made to the country that has suffered the ravages of colonialism before that country is expected to face up to the problems and difficulties that will inevitably beset it upon independence."