



EFF STATEMENT ON BARBADOS SEVERING COLONIAL TIES WITH BRITAIN

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

The EFF joins all progressive and anti-colonial people across the world in celebrating and welcoming the new Republic of Barbados, which severed its ties with colonial Britain yesterday, on the 30th of November. Barbados is an island in the Caribbean that has been under British colonialism since 1625. While the country gained its independence from Britain on the 30th of November 1966, the British Queen was still recognized as the Head of State.

This severing of ties with Britain is a significant mark of an end of a very painful historical period that has affected the social and economic evolution of Barbados, Britain and the African continent. It is a history written in tears and blood of African people, who were taken away from the continent and turned into slaves in the plantations of Barbados for the benefit of Britain. After annexing the Island and turning it into a British colony, Britain forced about 600 000 Africans to work as slaves in Barbados between 1627 and 1833, which in turn made Britain an extremely rich country.

It is as historical fact that without the barbaric trans-Atlantic slave trade, Britain, the United States and other western nations would have never developed to the extent that they did, and that Africa would have never been as marginalized and underdeveloped as it now is. The wealth and prosperity of these western nations is directly linked to the underdevelopment of the African continent and the continued underdevelopment of other nations across the world.

Even with a population of just less than 300 000, Barbados has taken a very bold step to affirm to the world that no people, no nation should ever be under the imposed leadership of others, that each and every nation has the right to determine its own path to development. The declaration of Barbados as a republic is also an opportunity for Britain to reflect on its role in the dehumanization and persecution of people, the role it played as a breeding factory for racism and notions of white supremacy, and the shameless exploitation of people and natural resources for the benefit of a tiny minority.

If the British royal family had any conscious, they would lead efforts to root out racism in Britain and elsewhere in the world, to compensate for the leading role they played in the persecution of black people. If they had any ethical inclinations, the British royal family would return all African treasures stolen during colonialism, and would lead efforts to pay reparations to descendants of African who were enslaved across the world.

The EFF takes this occasion to also call for the total independence of all occupied territories across the world. We call for the independence of Western Sahara from Morocco, and for the world to isolate Morocco until they allow the people of Western Sahara their full independence. We call for the full independence of other countries that are yet to completely sever their ties to Britain and who still have the Queen as the Head of State. Countries like Jamaica, The Bahamas and Papua New Guinea must also follow the example of Barbados and discard British domination into the dustbin of history, where it belongs.

The EFF further calls for the total independence of Puerto Rico, who are effectively colonized by the United States of America. The people of Puerto Rico are not permitted to elect an independent Head of State or President, yet all presidents of the United States are automatically declared Heads of State and Presidents of Puerto Rico. No people in all parts of the world should live under leaders they did not choose.

We congratulate the people of Barbados, and the President Sandra Mason for this brave and necessary step.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**