

**November 18, 1803-November 18, 2007 marks 204 years of struggle.**

The battle of Vertières was indeed the epitome of all the battles led by Haitian slaves leading to the foundation of the Haitian Republic. The only successful slave rebellion began on August 1791 and ended on November 18, 2003 leading to the liberation of the Haitian people and the Dominicans.



*La Batterie de Vallière*, located in Mole St. Nicolas, is one of the forts showcasing the military might and strategic planning of the Haitian warriors in preparation for upholding Haitian independence. It is the responsibility of every Haitian to learn the history of this great nation. It is our duty to protect the ideals of our forefathers and Dessalines in keeping Haiti free of any foreign meddling. The architecture of this fortress is extraordinary, built on the sea as a precautionary measure to defend Haitian independence.

This temple below is where over more than 200 delegates met to seal in blood the desire of the Haitian people to be free. This is indeed “Bwa Kayiman” today in celebrating “La Bataille de Vertières”. Let us not forget those who are giving their lives in the fight to safeguard Haitian sovereignty and liberty in Haiti today.



In 1791, after the uprising leading to the death of warrior priest Bookman, the French henchmen displayed his cut off head to the slaves as a psychological tool to quell the idea of slaves as being free. Haitians were more determined than ever to step up their military might in fighting for the abolition of slavery. The cruelty of slavery and of the French slave masters engenders the masses more than ever to be more determined in their quest for freedom. More than 200 delegates from all walks of life, religions, creeds, color met at this place to seal in blood the determination of the Haitian slaves to be free and to get rid of the French once and for all.

Toussaint, one of the earlier architects of the idea of a free Haiti wanted a free country, but governs as property or colony of the French. The presence of Minustha on Haitian soil today, takes us back 200 years to the time when Toussaint wanted to govern Haiti as a French colony and the Haitian people as property of the masters.

If the presence of the foreign invaders today cannot be translated as being helpful in areas that Haiti is lacking in management of its resources, protection of the environment, civil liberties, energy enhancement, management and conservation, protection of our borders, and being helpful to those who can not help themselves, under no circumstance should any Haitian government call upon any foreign entity to desecrate Haitian pride and ideals.

Today in celebrating “La Bataille de Vertières” the proudest moment in Haitian history, let’s not forget, if you cannot measure the usefulness of the foreign troops on Haitian soil, their presence is not needed. In commemorating the memory of our ancestors, we should not desecrate the sacred soil where the blood and tears of our forefathers were shed.



Every Haitian must on all occasions uphold the flag of liberty and the interest of the Haitian people as the utmost interest above all. It took our ancestors 12 years from August 1791 to November 1803 to get rid of the French army for good. We as Haitians must consider 2004 the celebration of our bicentennial as a breach of our sovereignty, and the beginning of the war that should lead to the economic liberation of the Haitian people no later than the year 2016. We must have a modern nation and a nationalist government in all its forms in Haiti in order to safeguard the ideals of our forefathers.

To achieve such an ideal, it is incumbent on all Haitians to play their part. The churches, the schools, the political parties, the civil societies, the students, the rich, and the poor must take their responsibility in teaching the members of their respective communities what the notions of nationalism, patriotism and civism are. All of these things are important in recreating the dream of our forefathers.

In conclusion, we want to take sides with our emperor the Great Jean-Jacques Dessalines in saying to those Haitians who may think that the international community is able or capable of bringing peace and prosperity to Haiti to leave Haiti alone. For those Haitians who think that the solutions to our problems are a Haitian solution as was determined and showcased by the meeting in Bwa Kayiman leading to our independence to take sides and return to Haiti and rebuild it. It will take a concerted effort from every Haitian from every walk of life to make sure that the legacy of our forefathers is brought to fruition.

Happy celebration of the Haitian victory over the French.

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