

# Universe Africa™

## The Best of Africa!

### Black History Month Remembrance:

By the front door of the Elmina Castle, Ghana is a dried-up moat and a plaque on the wall that reads:

“In everlasting memory of the anguish of our ancestors.  
 “May those who died rest in peace.  
 “May those who return find their roots.  
 “May humanity never again perpetrate such injustice against humanity  
 “We the living vow to uphold this!”

**Contact:**  
**T. Kofi Hadjor**  
**Founder/ Research Director**  
**Tel: 647- 439- 3081**

*universeafrica@rogers.com*

249 Queen’s Quay West. Toronto, Ont. M5J 2N5 South West Corner of Radisson Admiral Hotel



## In Celebration of Black History Month

### New Year’s Message from Her Excellency The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean Governor General of Canada,

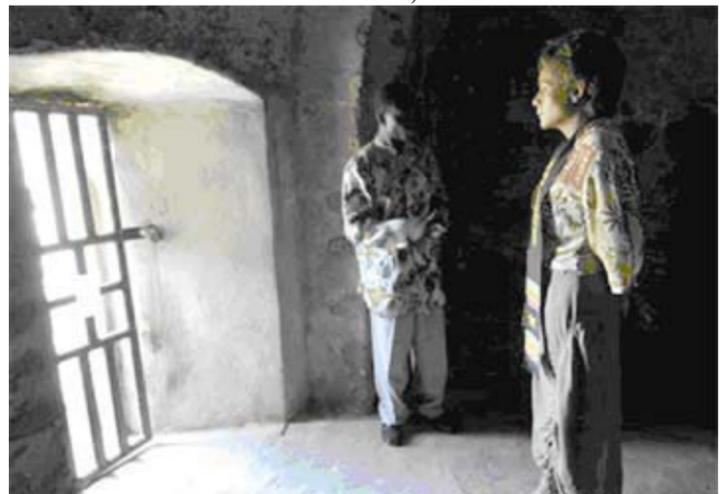
“Let me start by looking back at 2006, beginning with the year’s most recent events. I have just returned from my first State visit as governor general of Canada. I crossed the African continent from Algeria, Mali and Ghana to South Africa and back north to Morocco. Each and every moment of the trip was unique and reinforced my belief that we have far too few opportunities to witness Africa’s bright, hopeful side. Throughout the trip, I set out to shed new light on the continent- showcasing untold perspectives and time-honoured traditions and cultures. I feel it is important to share with my fellow Canadians the vision of an Africa that is full of promise-a continent that is committed to finding its own solutions to the enormous challenges of the day-an Africa that is working towards stability, security, prosperity and freedom. It is this image of Africa that struck me so deeply. And it is this new Africa that Canada has long supported. An Africa whose remarkable, often unseen, efforts we

now celebrate together so that it may take its rightful place in the world community. I will never forget the faces of women, men and children who have chosen hope over pessimism, action over a sense of hopelessness. They are people who are changing an entire continent, one step at a time. I paid tribute to them, on behalf of all Canadians, sharing our admiration and friendship. It is this same spirit of togetherness that, in many ways, has been the hallmark of the past year. I was deeply touched by the kind words and trust that I shared with so many Canadians. Your stories and experiences for bettering the lives of your fellow citizens are truly remarkable. This important work, often done out of the spotlight, makes all the difference. I look forward to pursuing my discussions with Canadians who bring hope to their communities in each province and territory, every city and town. Certainly, we must all celebrate and salute the community spirit and actions of

our fellow citizens. I also know that this has been a difficult year for many families. My thoughts are especially with our soldiers in Afghanistan and their loved ones-who have endured great hardship. Indeed, they are making great sacrifices. Let me share with you that everywhere I have been-everywhere-I have been moved by the courage, energy, generosity and openness of the Canadian people. For me, that openness is living proof of our success as a country. That openness is also our greatest message of hope for humanity. As we embark on a new year, dear friends, let us not forget this important message that we, as Canadians, can bring to the world. And let us strengthen our resolve to spread this message far and wide. My husband Jean-Daniel Lafond, my daughter Marie-Éden and the Rideau Hall team join me in wishing you all peace, health, happiness and serenity.”

### The Daughter of Africa Returns Home! - The Pilgrimage of Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada

Governor General's visit "The Door of No Return", Elmina Castle, Ghana



"I said one thing we shall never be chained again. We shall never be on our knees again. We shall never be humiliated again."



Meeting with staff and family at Canadian High Commission, Accra

Photographer: Sgt. Eric Jolin, Rideau Hall

For more information on Governor General visit to Africa: [http://www.gg.ca/media/pho/index\\_e.asp](http://www.gg.ca/media/pho/index_e.asp)

This space is sponsored by Universe Africa, The Best of African Textiles