

## THE VALUE OF LIFE

By: David P. Rowe

In Jamaica, human life is considered on a sliding scale by the Media. The scale goes on a white to black sliding slope.

If one member of the white merchant community is shot and killed, the country explodes with grief. 76 black people were killed in Tivoli Gardens last year and they seem to be forgotten.

If a black male is shot at home in the inner-city, it is 'par for the course'. The same racial issues that Paul Bogle sacrificed his neck for are basically still with us 147 years later.

Governor Edward Eyre and Prime Minister Bruce Golding can both be accused of using excessive force to quell a riot in different eras. Governor Eyre was recalled by the British; we still have Prime Minister Golding.

The field slaves of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries enjoyed better lives than some of the ghetto dwellers of Jamaica today. The field slaves were guaranteed food and clothing.

This is not the society that the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley and the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante conceived of.

In 1966, when Emperor Haile Selassie I visited Jamaica and was greeted by many of the ordinary black people in Jamaica, equal rights in Jamaica had a brief moment of symbolic triumph. A champion of the common man enjoyed the national focus. For the most part since then, the common man in Jamaica has lived under the heel of oppression.

Our society tolerates white billionaires and forgotten black corpses.

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