



Deputy Chief Minister

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Honouring a Generation: Jamaican Academic to lecture on the Evacuation this week**

The Government, as part of a series of events to commemorate the wartime Evacuation of civilians from Gibraltar, has organised a lecture at the Garrison Library on the subject of the evacuees who went to Jamaica. The talk will be delivered by the Curator of the Museum of the University of the West Indies Dr Suzanne Francis-Brown.

Dr Francis-Brown completed her doctoral thesis precisely on the subject of the evacuation of Gibraltarians to Jamaica. It was entitled "Gibraltar Camp 1940-1947: Isolation and Interaction in Colonial Jamaica".

Contact between the Government and Dr Francis-Brown was made after a former evacuee who was born in Jamaica went back to her roots and met her.

The story of the Gibraltarians who were evacuated to Jamaica is not generally as well known. On Wednesday 9 October 1940, the SS Neoralia left across u-boat infested waters for Jamaica with 1093 evacuees on board. It arrived in Kingston on 27 October. A second batch of evacuees arrived in Jamaica on 16 November 1940. They were housed in Gibraltar Camp. The University is today located where Gibraltar Camp used to be.

The event will take place this Thursday 21 May at 6.30pm at the Garrison Library. Entrance is free and former evacuees and the general public are all invited to attend.

Commenting on the matter, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia said:

"I am delighted that Dr Francis-Brown has agreed to come to Gibraltar to participate in the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evacuation. It will be very interesting to learn what she has to say on the subject from the perspective of a writer, editor, historian and academic from Jamaica itself. The very fact that her doctoral thesis was precisely on this subject makes her an expert in the field. There will be an opportunity to ask questions which will make the event all the more interesting. This is one of a number of events that the Government has organised."