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Length: 3'31"

SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT AT SENEGAL'S GOREE ISLAND

VIDEO

VIEW OF GOREE ISLAND (13")

SLAVE HOUSE WALLS/CANNON
(14")

VIEW OF ISLAND (18")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Located off the coast of Senegal, Goree Island is today a small peaceful spot. It was once a centre of the brutal African slave trade. The earliest records date back to 1536.

For nearly three and a half centuries Africans were brought here, sold and shipped off to the Caribbean and the Americas. Millions of African men, women and children passed through the island between the mid-1500s and the mid-1800s.

Goree Island is now part of the "Slave Route Project" initiated by Haiti and African countries. It has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. UNESCO's Representative in Senegal, Armoogum Parsuramen, says the people here are supportive of the project.

PARSURAMEN:

ARMOOGUM PARSURAMEN ON
CAMERA (17")

"They welcome the work being done but they keep on saying that we need to do more. And I think we need to do more in a way which could help the Goree Island inhabitants to benefit in the process."

EXTERIOR SHOTS OF THE
SLAVE HOUSE/TOUR GUIDE
WALKING THROUGH SLAVE
HOUSE (34")

NARRATION

One of the most significant sites on the island is the Slave House, the last built here by the Dutch in 1776. Its rugged walls once echoed the fear, outrage and indignity of the atrocities inflicted upon the slaves. Chained and shackled in oppressively small cubicles, they were only fed once a day. Poor ventilation and drainage system bred diseases and many captives perished here. The Slave Route Project's objective is to explore the history of this important site as a contribution to peace, development and human rights.

PAN ALONG BUILDING/MAYOR
(7")

Because of its exposed location, says Mamadou Ndoye, the mayor of Goree Island, restoration is urgently needed.

MAMADOU NDOYE ON CAMERA
(19.5")

NDOYE: (in French)

"The problems are caused by nature. Because Goree is an island, it is subject to the effects of the wind, the sea and other elements. If we are not careful it will disappear."

GOREE ISLAND INHABITANTS/
TOURISTS ON BOAT (17")

NARRATION

Today, there are about 1,300 inhabitants on Goree Island. They mainly make their living

through tourism. The island is the most popular tourist attraction in Senegal, not only for its haunting history, but also for its relaxed atmosphere and the hospitality of its people.

TOURIST: (in French)

TOURIST – VOX POP (13”)

“This island is magnificent. It’s full of colour. I love it! People are friendly and warm. We are welcome here. We spent a beautiful day.”

NARRATION

JOSEPH NDAIYE LOOKING AT THE SLAVE HOUSE (6”)

The caretaker of the Slave House, Joseph Ndaiye, says many tourists come to recover the history of their ancestors.

NDAIYE: (in French)

JOSEPH NDAIYE ON CAMARA (11”)

“Mostly they are African-Americans who want to return to their roots. It’s some kind of pilgrimage for them. Needless to say, when they come they cry and scream.”

NARRATION:

TOURISTS,
“DOOR OF NO RETURN” (16”)

Today, Goree Island is welcoming visitors from all over the world to witness the “door of no return”. Through here passed millions of men, women and children for a last glimpse of their homeland.

Stripped of their identity and dignity...they were never to come back.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Richard Sydenham and Noreen Ahmed for the United Nations.