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Christiansted, U.S. Virgin Islands / Zurich, Switzerland

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Virgin Islander Files Criminal Complaint in Switzerland Alleging Cantonal Complicity in Historical Enslavement

Complaint names Zurich, Bern and Solothurn and asks federal prosecutors to investigate historical financial ties to the Atlantic slave economy and consider reparative relief.

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS / ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - A criminal complaint was filed on 1 September 2026 with the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland on behalf of **Shelley A.H. Moorhead**, President of the African-Caribbean Reparations and Resettlement Alliance (ACRRA) and a descendant of people enslaved in the former Danish West Indies. The complaint alleges aiding and abetting enslavement.

According to the complaint, the Cantons of **Zurich, Bern and Solothurn**, or their respective legal predecessors, participated in financial activity connected to slave economies during the period 1719-1839. The filing cites historical research concerning Zurich and Bern investments in the South Sea Company and Danish securities, and Solothurn investment in the Mississippi Company. It argues that these financial relationships contributed to systems of enslavement, including the slave economy of the Danish West Indies.

The complaint asks the Office of the Attorney General to open a criminal investigation and to examine the potential responsibility of the named cantons and any other legal entities found to have participated in the alleged conduct. Among the remedies requested are **finances of up to CHF 5 million for each canton**, compensation and satisfaction for alleged pecuniary and non-pecuniary harm, and other reparative measures.

The filing also asks Swiss authorities to identify other potential victims. People who believe they may be affected are encouraged to preserve documentation concerning ancestry and claimed harm and to consult the official filing requirements of the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland.

"This complaint asks Swiss authorities to do what historical justice requires: examine the evidence, determine legal responsibility, and allow the law - not historical distance - to decide whether accountability is due."

- Shelley A.H. Moorhead, President, ACRRA

About ACRRA

The African-Caribbean Reparations and Resettlement Alliance (ACRRA) is a U.S. Virgin Islands-based organization engaged in reparations advocacy, historical accountability, human rights and self-determination. Public documents and case updates are available at ACRRAUSVI.org.

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