The march will end in the **Signal Hill Quarry**.
The Quarry looms large as a symbol of the rock from which buildings and streets of early of Cape Town were built. The gathering in the Quarry will celebrate the diverse elements of the city—past and present.

**Proposed programme**

22h00 Gather at Greenmarket Square

22h45 Somerset / Prestwich Ossuary

23h15 Arrive at Quarry

Performance

00h15 end

Join the night march starting at 22h00 in Greenmarket Square, Monday 1 December 2008

This commemorative night march has been organised by a broadly constituted group of organisations. The following members of the working committee can be contacted for further information:

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  021-466 7200/06

- Natalie Jaynes: Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
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- Fiona Clayton, IZIKO Museum
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Image courtesy of Liverpool International Slavery Museums Research and Education Centre
Memory traces in the city

The 2006 march
During the period when slavery was at its height, there were many visible signs of its presence in the city—some of which are still in existence today.

The night march will symbolically touch on some of these sites, signifying an awareness of the importance of place memory in the making of the present.

The 2006 march started in Spin Street, site of the slave auction tree and incorporated the narrative of the Slave Lodge in Adderley Street. It proceeded to Greenmarket Square, through the Bo-Kaap to the Signal Hill Quarry where participants gathered around a small bonfire sharing words and songs.

On 1 December 1834 the Cape celebrated the official end to slavery with religious services, street parades and marching bands. There was singing and dancing in the streets and inside homes. The city was filled with the sights and sounds of celebration.

Bonfires blazed on Table Mountain and Signal Hill, and fireworks were set off in the harbour area. This marked the formal end of one of the most dreadful periods of the country’s history.

On 1 December we want to remember and honour the contributions made by our slave ancestors—the often forgotten people who built large parts of Cape Town.

Why December 1st?

The 2008 march
This year’s march will start at Greenmarket Square

This was a place where farmers and wagon-drivers from the countryside met with hawkers, fishermen, slave-holders and others who lived in and around Cape Town. Slaves collected water at the public water pump and would use this opportunity to socialise briefly. Proclamations and edicts were also announced from the balcony of the Town House.

The procession will stop at the Somerset Road / Prestwich Ossuary on the way to the Quarry. The remains of the people uncovered at the Prestwich Street development site were interred in the ossuary earlier in this year. The Prestwich burial ground has come to symbolise others in the greater Cape Town which have been unmarked and uncelebrated. Reflections at the ossuary will reference the Tana Baru on Signal Hill, and other lesser known sites of the enslaved people and other labourers of the city.