

## **BURNING SPEAR'S REGGAE REVOLUTION: A 50-YEAR JOURNEY TO 'NO DESTROYER'**

**BY RAS BANAMUNGU**

Icon Burning Spear reflected on his incredible 50-year career and the release of his latest album, "No Destroyer," which marks his return to the music scene after 15 years. The Jamaican artist first made waves with his debut album, "Studio One Presents Burning Spear," produced by Clement "Sir Coxsone" Dodd. This album laid the foundation for roots reggae, featuring thunderous basslines and majestic horns that complemented Spear's mesmerizing vocals.

Burning Spear's music has always been steeped in Rastafarianism and resistance, with lyrics that carry profound messages. His latest release, "No Destroyer," recorded in 2011 and released in August, offers a fresh perspective on his music. Spear believes that this album will connect with his fans on a deeper level, taking them on a journey through his experiences and tribulations.

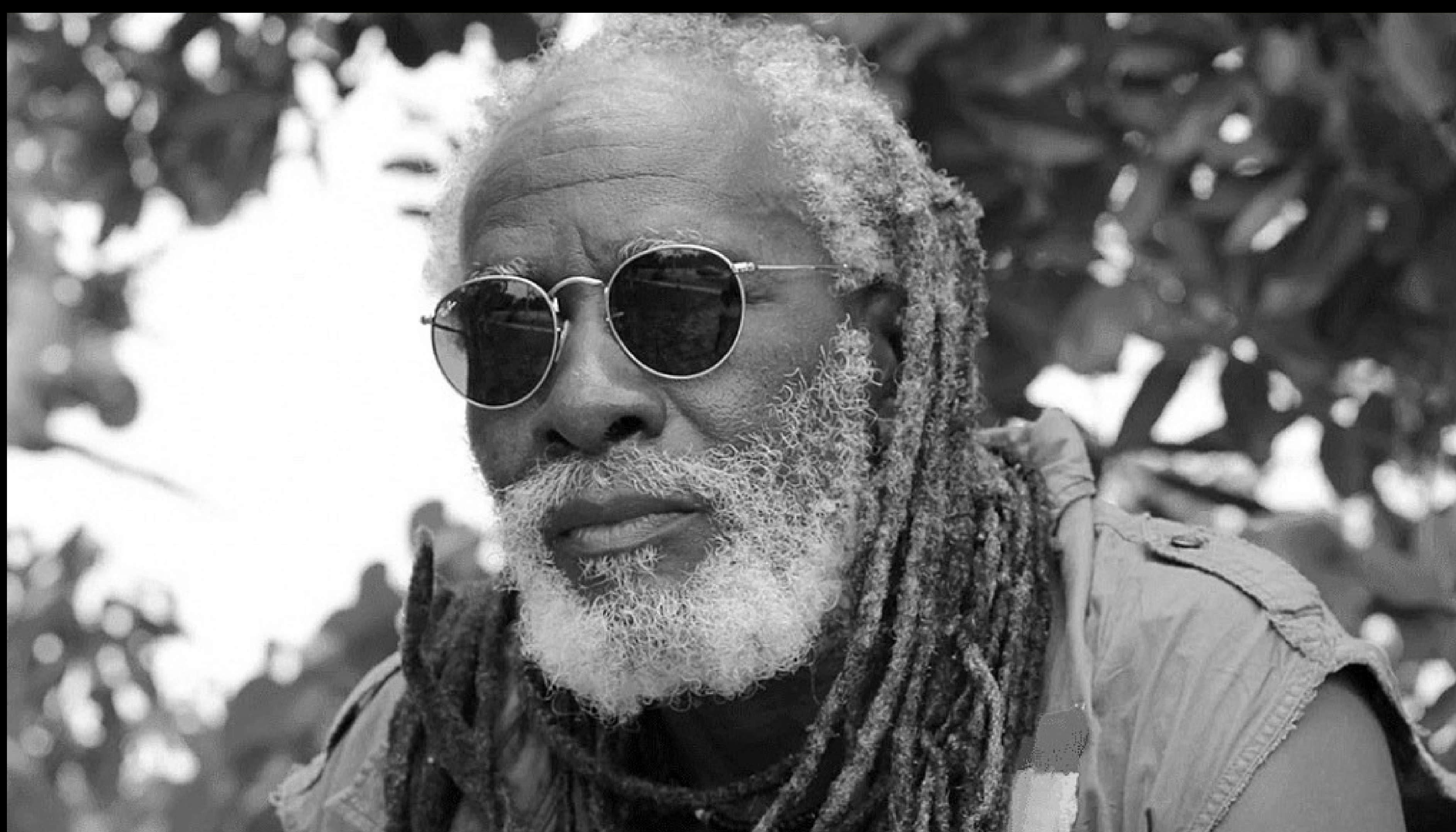


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Although Burning Spear briefly announced his retirement in 2016, his return in 2021 with the single "Mommy" marked a new chapter in his career. He's since performed at various festivals and events, proving that his music continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

Born as Winston Rodney in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, Burning Spear adopted his name from African freedom fighter Jomo Kenyatta, who was once known as the Burning Spear. Both were heavily influenced by the teachings of Marcus Garvey, a prominent figure in the Rastafarian way of life and the civil rights movement in the United States. Spear has used his music to spread Garvey's philosophies internationally, most notably in his 1975 album "Marcus Garvey."

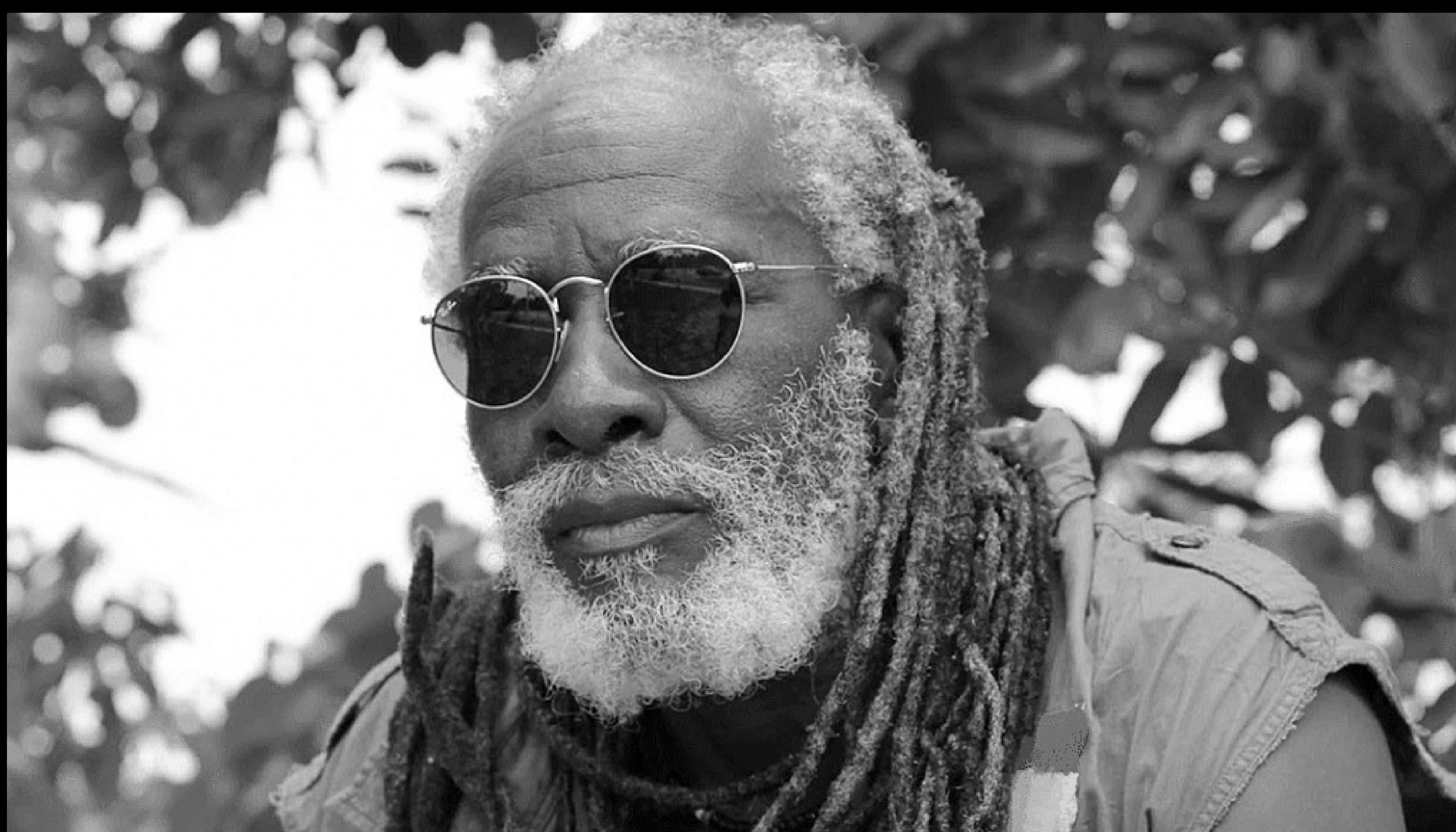


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One of Spear's first singles, "Door Peep Shall Not Enter," released in 1969, made a significant impact and played a crucial role in shaping the Rastafarian roots reggae movement of the 1970s. The song's lyrics, anchored in biblical references, conveyed a powerful message about the struggles faced by Rastafarians in Jamaica.

Throughout his career, Burning Spear encountered numerous challenges within the music industry, often leading to financial difficulties. Only later, with the help of his wife, Sonia Rodney, did he gain control of his music catalog and release it through their Burning Music Productions. This move allowed them to take ownership of the copyrights to most of his songs.

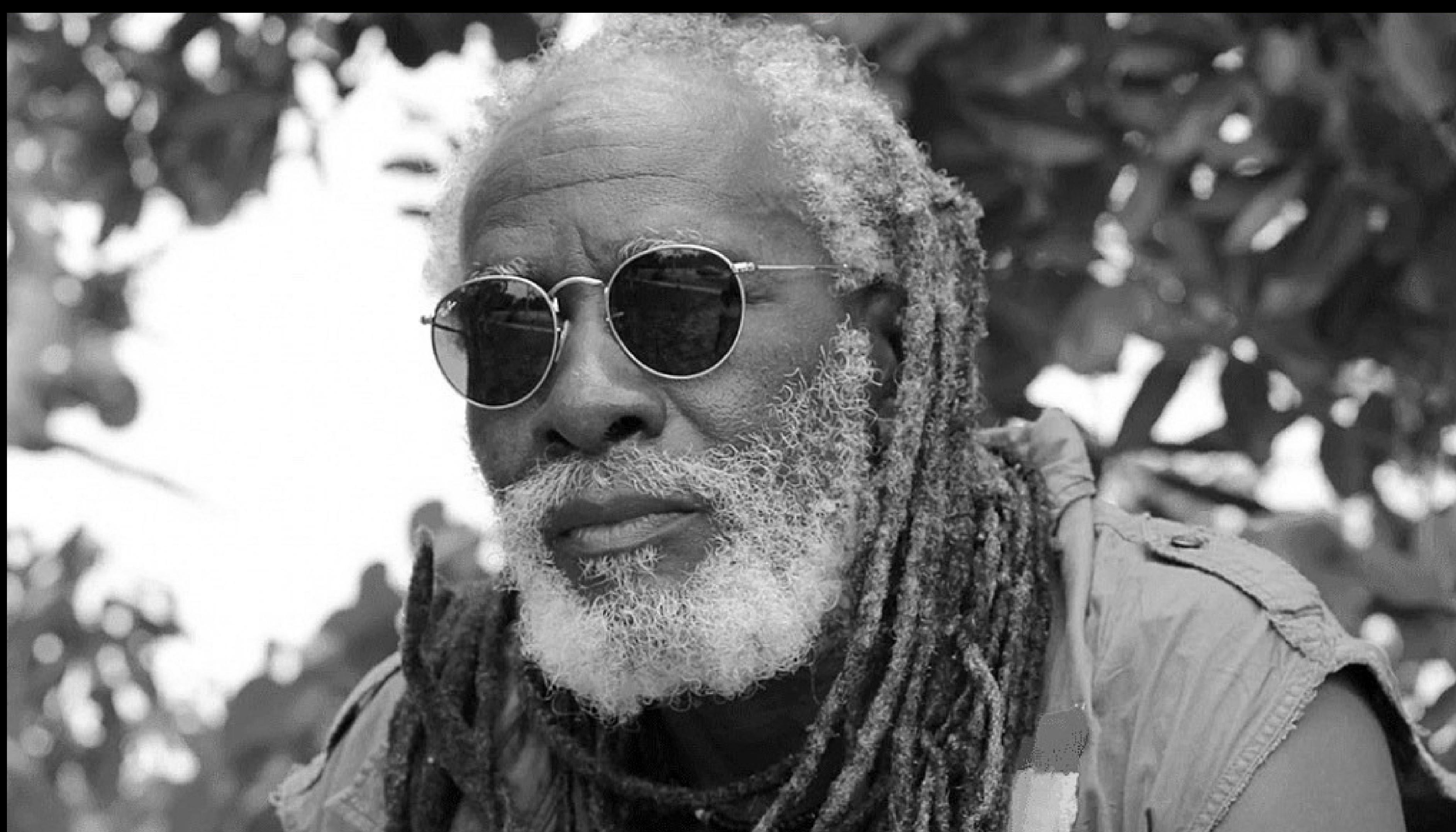


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In his latest album, "No Destroyer," Burning Spear addresses the music industry's pitfalls and corruption. He uses his music to express the pain and hardships faced by artists and musicians, shedding light on the obstacles they encounter in the industry. This album reflects his commitment to being an independent artist and raising awareness of the challenges faced by musicians.

Burning Spear's journey represents a contemporary realization of Marcus Garvey's self-reliance ideals, as he and his wife have taken control of their music and business. Spear's final message calls for the authorities to clear Marcus Garvey's name of all criminal charges and institute a public holiday in his honor in Jamaica. He believes that educating future generations about Garvey's principles is essential, and the time is right for these changes.



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### **CONCLUSION**

Burning Spear's music continues to inspire and reflect the struggles and triumphs of his career, while his dedication to Marcus Garvey's teachings serves as a reminder of the power of reggae music to convey important messages and promote change.