



## PRESS RELEASE

**EMBASSY OF GRENADA, WASHINGTON, DC – FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2011** — Hundreds of Grenadians and friends of Grenada gathered at the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC to commemorate Grenada's 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The traditional reception was hosted by Grenada's representative to the OAS, Ambassador Gillian Bristol who opened the evening's events recalling the crucial role played by the Diaspora and sister countries of the hemisphere in nation building. Grenada's Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senator Denneth Modeste, spoke on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Tillman Thomas.



*(l to r) H.E. Corneilus Smith, Ambassador of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, H. E. Gillian M. S. Bristol, Ambassador of Grenada and Senator the Hon. Denneth Modeste, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Grenada*

Also participating in the official ceremony were the OAS' Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, and Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS. The Diplomatic Corps turned out in significant numbers to join in the celebrations. Also present were members of the Grenada Nutmeg Network (GNN) a youth outreach group founded by the Embassy.



*Ambassador Bristol with members of the GNN youth group*

A two week art exhibition featuring works by Grenadian artists in the Diaspora was inaugurated as part of the Independence celebration. Sculptor Tricia Bishop and artists Roger James and George Andrew offered to stage the exhibition for this occasion.

The Washington DC celebrations began on February 6<sup>th</sup> with the ecumenical Church Service held at the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, where a resounding sermon was delivered by Grenadian Reverend Wayne Hosten, to a packed congregation of about 175. This was followed by a brunch, offered by the Grenadian community organizations in the area.