

ACTION AF-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	PER-00	PM-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/003W		

-----CEA16B 111409Z /38

R 111303Z DEC 03
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9842
INFO SADC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000966

DEPT FOR AF/E

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, MARR, PREL, ASEC, MP, IO
SUBJECT: CHAGOS REFUGEES GROUP HOLDS DEMONSTRATION,
DELIVERS LETTER ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 860 (B) STATE 75051 (C) STATE
209452

1. ON DECEMBER 10, THE CHAGOS REFUGEE GROUP, AN
ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE
REMOVED FROM CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, HELD A PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSION AND DELIVERED A LETTER, TEXT BELOW, TO
THE EMBASSY.

2. IN THE LETTER, THE GROUP STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO
MARK UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AS A DAY OF PROTEST. THE
LETTER ASKS FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO PAY FOR
COMPENSATION FOR THE SUFFERING UNDERGONE BY THE
GROUP IN THE PAST AND FIX A SPECIFIC DATE TO ALLOW
THE CHAGOSSIANS TO VISIT THE BURIAL GROUNDS ON PEROS
BANHOS, SALOMON, AND DIEGO GARCIA. THE LETTER ALSO
ASKED FOR AN END TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ON DIEGO
GARCIA THAT PREVENT CHAGOSSIANS FROM WORKING THERE.

3. BEGIN LETTER TEXT:

DEAR SIR,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
DAY, THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN IN THE NAME OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

CHAGOS REFUGEES GROUP, AS MEMBERS OF THE CHAGOSSIAN COMMUNITY, DISPLACED FROM THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO BETWEEN 1965 AND 1973 TO MAKE WAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY BASE AND LIVING IN EXILE (SIC) IN MAURITIUS AND THE SEYCHELLES EVER SINCE. WE WRITE AS A PEOPLE STILL SUFFERING FROM THE VIOLATION OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RESPECTED DESPITE THE LONDON HIGH COURT JUDGMENT OF 3RD NOVEMBER 2000, WHICH CONDEMNED THE ACTIONS OF THE UK GOVERNMENT FOR THE INJUSTICES IT HAS PERPETRATED VIS--VIS THE CHAGOSSIAN COMMUNITY.

WE NOTE THAT THE CHAGOSSIAN COMMUNITY IS STILL SUFFERING FROM:

1. THE VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHT TO RETURN TO OUR NATAL LAND, THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO;
2. THE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS IN WHICH WE ARE LIVING IN EXILE IN MAURITIUS AND THE SEYCHELLES;
3. THE FAILURE OF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES TO GIVE US THE CONSIDERATION WE ARE DUE.

SINCE WE ARE STILL SUFFERING FROM INJUSTICE AND THE FAILURE TO RESPECT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE HAVE DECIDED TO MARK TODAY, THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, AS A DAY OF PROTEST OUTSIDE THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION.

WE REQUEST THAT THE US & UK GOVERNMENT:

1. RESPECT THE JUDGMENT OF 3RD NOVEMBER 2000, ALLOWING CHAGOSSIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR NATAL ISLANDS;
2. PAY COMPENSATION FOR THE SUFFERING THAT WE HAVE UNDERGONE DURING THE PAST;
3. FIX A DATE TO ALLOW THE CHAGOSSIANS TO VISIT THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO IN ORDER TO PAY HOMAGE TO OUR ANCESTORS WHO ARE BURIED THERE IN THE CEMETERIES ON PEROS BANHOS, SALOMON, AND DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN A DEPLORABLE STATE, AND ALSO TO START TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR EVENTUAL RETURN TO LIVE THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME WE ASK THAT THE US GOVERNMENT BRINGS AN END TO ITS DISCRIMINATORY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ON DIEGO GARCIA, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH FOREIGNERS ARE ABLE TO WORK AND LIVE ON THE US MILITARY BASE THERE, CHAGOSSIANS ARE CURRENTLY PREVENTED FROM DOING SO.

WE HEREBY LET YOU KNOW THAT IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO THESE REQUESTS, THE COMMUNITY WILL TAKE FURTHER ACTION IN THE FUTURE.

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WE THEREFORE HOPE TO RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO
OUR REQUESTS.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,
LOUIS OLIVIER BANCOULD, O.S.K.
CHAIRMAN, CHAGOS REFUGEE GROUP

END LETTER TEXT

WILLIAMS

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