

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEENS BENCH DIVISION  
DIVISIONAL COURT

CROWN OFFICE LIST

IN THE MATTER OF AN  
APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL  
REVIEW

THE QUEEN -v- THE SECRETARY OF  
STATE FOR THE  
FOREIGN &  
COMMONWEALTH  
OFFICE (1)

HM COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE BRITISH  
INDIAN OCEAN  
TERRITORY (2)

EX PARTE LOUIS OLIVIER  
BANCOULT

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STATEMENT OF MARIE LISETTE  
TALATE

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WP Ref : PKC00002301

Government of Mauritius

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

Surname TALATE

Other Names MARY LISETTE

Maiden Name

Date of Issue 09/12/86 Sig./Thumbprint of Holder

Blood Group

Issuing Authority's Signature

ID No. 71903418000103 K.T.P.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEENS BENCH DIVISION  
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**CO/3775/98**

**CROWN OFFICE LIST**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

**THE QUEEN -v- THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE FOREIGN &  
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (1)**

**HM COMMISSIONER FOR THE BRITISH INDIAN  
OCEAN TERRITORY (2)**

**EX PARTE LOUIS OLIVIER BANCOULT**

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**STATEMENT OF MARIE LISETTE TALATE**

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**I, MARIE LISETTE TALATE, of Royal Road, Terrasson, Pointe-Aux-Sables, Mauritius make this Statement in support of the application for Judicial Review herein.**

1. I refer to my previous Affidavit sworn 7 September 1998.
2. I have been shown a film entitled *Peaks of Limuria*, in which a number of islanders are shown living and working in Diego Garcia . I refer to the shot of a lady drying her laundry in the garden of her home, and confirm that I am the lady there depicted. I also recognise the church in Diego Garcia which I and others used to attend every Sunday. I refer to the shot of men processing coconuts, and identify one of the workers as Jean Charles Medeiste who has now passed away.

3. I believe that the film, *Peaks of Limuria*, gives a very good impression of the very favourable living conditions, the excellent climate, and the thriving community which is depicted on Diego Garcia.
4. I wish to return to the Chagos Islands. I would like to make a permanent return to Diego Garcia, especially for the reason that I would wish to visit my family's graves. I believe that this wish is also shared by the younger generation. I have four children and fifteen grandchildren. Between them they possess many skills which would be of use on the Chagos Islands, from shelling coconuts, unloading boats, making brooms, mats and washing lines from coconut products, cleaning the plantation, attending a creche, working in hospitals, acting as maid and cook, gardener, mason, mechanic and carpenter. I believe that those in my family alone would be able to contribute a great deal if it were permitted for the Ilois to return and work in the Islands.
5. I have been asked whether any promises were made to the residents of Diego Garcia prior to their enforced removal. I recall one occasion, possibly in 1970 or 1971, when the Company Administrator, Mr Marcel Moulinie, called the residents of Diego Garcia to a public meeting. Present also was the British Administrator, Mr John Todd. In his presence, Mr Moulinie made definite promises of land and jobs that would be available if we boarded the boats and went to Mauritius. He described how houses and land would be made available to us, and that if we returned it would be just like "stepping down from a house to the ship to the house". I believe this promise had the authority of Mr Todd. In fact we were not given any option and were told that if we did not leave we would be abandoned. Animals were killed in front of us to frighten us into leaving.
6. I only wish to return to Diego Garcia. I lived all my life at East Point village, which is on the half of Diego Garcia that is preserved as a nature conservation area and believe that the East side of Diego Garcia could be return to the Ilois for occupation without disturbing the military base on the West side.

7. I believe that the facts contained in this witness Statement are true.



SIGNED : .....

MARIE LISETTE TALATE

DATED : .....10.11.99.....

**CERTIFICATE**

I certify that I, Roland CONSTANTIN, Notary Public, of Saint James Court, Port-Louis, Mauritius, have read over the contents of this witness statement and the Declaration of Truth to the witness and explained the nature and effect of the exhibits referred to in it who appeared to understand:

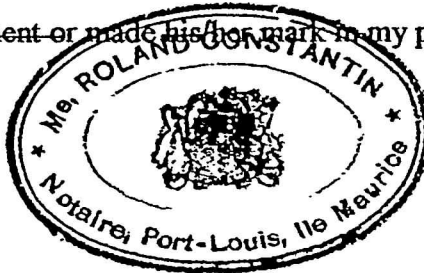
- (a) the statement and approved its contents as accurate, and
- (b) the Declaration of Truth and the consequences of making a false witness statement

and signed the said Statement or made his/her mark in my presence



.....  
Roland CONSTANTIN

Authorised under the Laws of Mauritius to Administer Oaths



Dated 10-11-99.....