

Dear [MP],

I am writing as your constituent to ask that you strongly oppose the deal transferring sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius when it is debated in Parliament.

The Government's decision to sign a deal transferring the sovereignty of these islands without ensuring the self-determination of the Chagossian community is a betrayal of those displaced people and undermines the UK's national security.

These islands have been British since the end of the Napoleonic Wars before Mauritius existed as an independent country. Mauritius has never owned or controlled the islands, and the Mauritian sovereignty claim is nothing more than a re-writing of history and is strongly opposed by the majority of Chagossians in the UK and overseas.

The UK government has claimed that those opposing the deal means siding with the likes of China and Russia, it has become increasingly clear that the opposite is true. China has publicly congratulated Mauritius on the terms of the deal, we have learnt from Hong Kong, it is playing the long game of dismantling the West one island at a time.

The deal undermines the UK and Chagossians in a number of ways:-

- The cost of the deal is likely to cost upwards of **£30bn** over the lifetime of the deal, right now it costs **nothing** to maintain sovereignty;
- The UK will be required to inform a foreign power, Mauritius, ahead of any strikes or action originating from Diego Garcia. Given Mauritius is increasingly aligned with China, and Diego Garcia is crucial for UK/US defence and the strategic interests of the West, this is an disgraceful loss of autonomy;
- Funds that have been set aside for the Chagossians will be **managed** by Mauritius, a country that has systematically discriminated against the Chagossian community. Chagossians are not Mauritian and many do not have any links to Mauritius. British Chagossians will receive no support.
- The deal undermines self-determination and sets a precedent for other countries to play lawfare in international courts against the UK. The UK has effectively fallen victim to a campaign of disputed lawfare.
- It is a short-term political win for long-term failure. Not only are the Chagossians let down in the long-run with no support, but the UK now risks losing Diego Garcia within 100 years, which now puts future security and defence at risk.

The UK Government must be held to account over giving away a huge piece of British territory at cost, this major constitutional change, and I urge you to play your part in this. The decision sets a dangerous precedent for other British Overseas Territories including the Falklands, Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

I urge you to challenge and oppose this deal in Parliament. The UK must retain sovereignty over the islands, defend Diego Garcia, and consult the Chagossians.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]