



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Letter dated 1 March 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council**

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to refer to the joint study by four mandate holders on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (A/HRC/13/42), and in particular to page 182 of annex I and page 207 of annex II thereto, in which reference is made to the “UK Overseas Territory of Diego Garcia” and “Diego Garcia Island, British Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean”, respectively.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to reiterate that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, is part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. The Chagos Archipelago was illegally excised by the United Kingdom from the territory of Mauritius prior to its independence, in total disregard of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965.

The Chagos Archipelago had always been under the administrative rule of Mauritius until its illegal excision by the then colonial power. The Republic of Mauritius has never relinquished its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and has, ever since this illegal excision, consistently and persistently pressed the Government of the United Kingdom, in both bilateral and multilateral forums, for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to the Republic of Mauritius.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius does not recognize the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” or any “British Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean” or “UK Overseas Territory of Diego Garcia” in so far as these terms purport to describe or refer to the Chagos Archipelago. It deplores the fact that it is still not in a position to exercise effective control over the Chagos Archipelago as a result of the illegal excision of its territory.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius also views with the utmost concern the use of its territory for activities that may be in breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights treaties, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

In February 2008, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius expressed to the authorities of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America its grave concern about the use of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius for activities that are blatantly in contravention with basic human rights principles.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius wishes to stress the need for an early return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of the Republic of Mauritius so that it can effectively exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and thus ensure that the obligations of the Republic of Mauritius under international human rights instruments are fulfilled in the entire territory of Mauritius.

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius would be grateful if its comments could be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council.

(*signed*)      **S.B.C. Servansing**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Mauritius

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