

Diego Garcia & Chagos

Declaration of Grande Rivière on Chagos

The Conference on Diego Garcia & Chagos held at Grande Riviere, Port Louis, Mauritius, bringing together 150 participants from 30 October to 2 November 2010, reached consensus that we share the combined aim of:

- the complete decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius, the dismantling of the British Indian Ocean Territories colony, and the re-unification of the country,
- the closing down of the US military base on Diego Garcia, and its ecological clean-up by the US,
- the right of return and full reparations for all Chagossians,

And that to advance these aims,

And given that there are some actions that can be set in motion only by the State of Mauritius,

we commit ourselves to putting pressure on the Mauritian State towards its acting in practice so as:

- To organize a formal State visit on the Trochetia ship to Chagos including Diego Garcia, which are all part of Mauritian territory as defined by the Constitution, and that the State delegation should include the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition;
- To enter a case in the UN International Court of Justice at the Hague through at once inscribing a Resolution to this precise effect on to the agenda for the next UN General Assembly due in 2011, and continuing to ensure that the Resolution is not later withdrawn from the agenda;
- To make a formal demand for UN inspections under the Pelindaba Treaty, as soon as the mechanism for doing so comes into force later this year,
- To use all other UN bodies and procedures possible for bringing about actions that indicate a clear statement of Mauritian sovereignty over Chagos, and that indicate the danger the military base represents.

And, at the same time, in the context of the present debate on electoral reform and Constitution amendment, and in response to imperialist and private capitalist interests clearly targeting Mauritian Islands and land, to work towards giving concrete expression to the Chagossians' participation in the democratic set-up of the country; and to amend the Constitution so as to outlaw the setting up of any military bases on Mauritian territory in future;

That we will work towards the setting up of a Scientific Centre that gathers testimony about Chagos, collects documentation on Chagos, so that the history and culture of Chagos are kept alive;

And that, in the context of these demands, we call on the President of the Republic, the last living witness to the pre-Independence negotiations held at Lancaster House to come forward to give public testimony;

And that in order to advance the three causes stated in the first paragraph above, as well as the specific demands then enumerated in this Declaration, we commit ourselves to building up broad support on a national and international level,

And we delegate six people, the undersigned, to present this Declaration of Grande Rivière to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and also to make the Declaration public.

Kishore Mundil
Ragini Kistnasamy
Alain Ah-Vee
Rela Andre
Vishnu Jugdhurry
Lindsey Collen

3 November, 2010.

Deklarasyon Gran Rivyer lor Chagos

Konferans 30 Oktob a 2 Novam 2010, ki finn reyni 150 dimunn Gran Rivyer, finn tom dakor ki nu pe viz anmemtan:

- pu dekoloniz Repiblik Moris kompletman, demantel BIOT, ek re-inifye pei,
- pu ferm baz militer USA Diego Garcia, e fer netwayaz ekolozik,
- pu asir drwa de retur ek ful reparasyon pu tu Chagosyen,

e ki, pu ariv a sa,

etan done ki se selman Leta Moris ki abilite pu met an mars sertenn linisyativ,

nu angaz nu pu met presyon lor Leta Moris pu li azir dan lapratik:

- Pu organiz enn vizit deta formel lor bato Trochetia par enn delegasyon ki inklir an personn Prezidan Repiblik, Premye Minis, ek Lider Lopoziyon, lor Chagos (inklir Diego Garcia) sa parti teritwar “Mauritius” ki definir kom tel dan Konstitisyon pei.
- Pu met enn ka Lakur Internasyonal Lazistis (ICJ) La-Haye atraver inskripsyon imedya de enn Rezolisyon dan sa sans la ek mintenir li lor azanda prosenn Lasanble Zeneral UN an 2011,
- Pu inskriir enn demand formel pu inspeksyon UN su Trete Pelindaba, osito ki so mekanism vinn an viger plitar sa lane la,
- Pu servi tu bann linstans UN ki posib pu sinnyal klerman suverennte Moris lor Chagos an antye, ek danze ki baz militer Diego Garcia reprezante.

E, anmemtan, nu angaz nu, dan kad deba aktyel lor reform elektoral ek sanzman konstitisyonel, e fas a vize inperyalis ek kapital prive lor bann diferan lil ek teritwar Moris, pu travay ver donn enn form konkre pu Chagosyen form parti dan “set-up” demokratik Republic of Mauritius, antan ki Leta Arsipel; e pu amand Konstitisyon pu anpes instalasyon tu baz militer lor teritwar Moris dan lavenir;

Ki nu pu evre ver met anplas enn Sant Syantifik pu rekey temwayaz, met ansam dokimantasyon, pu gard vivan listwar ek kiltir Chagos;

E ki, dan kad tu sa bann demand la, nu fer apel a Prezidan Repiblik, dernye temwen vivan, pu li vinn delavan, temwayn an piblik seki finn pase dan negosyasyon pre-Lindepandans ki ti fer dan Lancaster House;

E pu ki nu avans sa 3 koz mansyone dabor dan sa Deklarasyon la, osi byin ki tu demand spesifik ki nu finn elabore ansuit, nu pu batir enn larz sutyen nasyonal ek internasyonal.

E nu deleg sis dimunn, susiyne, pu zot remet sa Deklarasyon Gran Rivyer la a Minis Zafer Etranzer e pu zot rann li piblik.

*Kishore Mundil
Ragini Kistnasamy
Alain Ah-Vee
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3 Novam, 2010.