

Chagossians Forced Off Homeland for Military Base



In the 1960s, the U.S. and British governments schemed a secret deal to take the island of Diego Garcia, one of the main islands of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean under British colonial rule since 1814, where Chagossian families lived for generations.

Eyeing Diego Garcia for a military base, the U.S. government insisted that the British hand over the island without a local population. The British government agrees, in exchange for the erasure of \$14 million of debt that the British government owes the U.S. government.

Britain and the U.S. forcibly removed all of the archipelago's local population between 1965 and 1973. To avoid reporting a new colony to the U.N., Britain recharacterized the entire Chagossian people as contract laborers rather than the region's permanent population.

Now, Chagossians are demanding reparations and a return to their homeland. [“We want the Biden administration to apologize and to make reparation for what they did wrong to our people.” says Oliverr Bancoult, activist and chair of the Chagos Refugees Group.](#) Perpetuating crimes against humanity, the UK and U.S. have displaced a whole population, while blocking their right to return to their homeland, persecuting them on the grounds of race. Learn more about the legacy of colonization, displacement, and the Chagossian fight for reparations [here](#).

Source: [Democracy Now! “Crimes Against Humanity”: Exiled from Diego Garcia for U.S. Military Base, Residents Demand to Return](#)

