

# UK's Return of Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius Reinforces Argentina's Falkland Islands Cause

By [Ahmed Adel](#)

Global Research, October 08, 2024

Region: [Europe](#), [Latin America & Caribbean](#), [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [History](#)

*The agreement between London and Mauritius on the return of the Chagos Archipelago was welcomed by the Argentine Foreign Ministry as a step towards the recovery of sovereignty over the Islas Malvinas, more commonly known as the Falkland Islands.*

Buenos Aires welcomed the historic agreement between the United Kingdom and the African island country to return the Chagos archipelago, which was colonised more than half a century ago. Aware of the case's parallels with the historic dispute with London over sovereignty for the Falkland Islands, Argentina issued an announcement expressing hope in recovering the archipelago.

On X, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Diana Mondino**, stated on October 3:

"We celebrate this step in the right direction and ending obsolete practices. Following the path we have started, with concrete actions and not empty rhetoric, we will recover full sovereignty of our Malvinas Islands. The Malvinas were, are and will always be Argentine."

The reaction to the news was immediate. The British governor of the Falkland Islands, **Alison Blake**, stated that

"the legal and historical contexts of the Chagos Archipelago and the Falkland Islands are very different. UK Ministers have been very clear throughout the process that the UK will not agree to anything that runs the risk of jeopardising sovereignty in other Overseas Territory."

According to Buenos Aires, the event marks a direct precedent for advancing the diplomatic resolution of the conflict that began almost two centuries ago and whose peak of tension exploded with the war waged in 1982 -during the Argentine military dictatorship-culminating in the UK's victory.

Nonetheless, this news of the Chagos Archipelago can be defined by one word for many Argentines: hope. It is an important step for international law and a victory for justice for all states facing a similar situation. The recovery of the archipelago results from serious, consensual and constant work by the Republic of Mauritius, which has always sought the same objective for decades. Argentina will take this case as a reference to move forward in the recovery of sovereignty.

Despite Blake's denial, there are parallels between the case of the African country and that

of the South American country. These are two cases of decolonisation in which the colonial power is the same. In addition, in both cases, the territorial integrity of the colonised state was violated, whilst the colonial power expelled parts of its population.

The triumph of the Mauritius Islands has a clear impact and consists of progress towards decolonisation. In the last instance, international pressure forced London to sit down and discuss the conditions for the transfer.

However, the greatest issue Buenos Aires faces is the changing diplomatic strategy over the years, depending on the political leanings of successive governments. At times, the country has tried to be more rigorous in its dealings with the UK. However, in certain circumstances, the Latin American country has opted to seduce its British counterpart, thinking that in this way, it could reach a rapprochement and, in some uncertain future, a solution. Although the claim to sovereignty is a national banner that no government has given up, there is no consistency in achieving that goal.

In some cases, approaching dialogue with London presents dissimilar views within the same administration. The clearest example is the current administration of **Javier Milei**, which announced last month an agreement with the UK for the resumption of weekly flights from São Paulo in Brazil to the Falkland Islands.

Through her social media on September 27, Argentine **Vice President Victoria Villarruel** denounced the flights:

“The proposed agreement announced with the United Kingdom is contrary to our Nation’s interests. It proposes to provide continental logistical support to the occupation and, in fact, allow them to continue plundering our seas.”

“It is incredible that while the US offers us coast guard ships to protect our Argentine sea from extra-continental pillage, we propose to cooperate with the power that usurps our territory,” she added.

Buenos Aires is not alone in its claim. Over the decades, Argentina has garnered support from powers worldwide, who have consistently backed the country in key bodies such as the United Nations. Not only do the majority of South American countries support Argentina, but major players such as China and Russia have spoken out on various occasions to support their claim. This has been a constant over the years and in different international scenarios.

Beijing’s solidarity is rooted in its policy of “One China.” In this context, the photograph released by provincial legislator **Agustín Romo**—from La Libertad Avanza, Milei’s party—in which he appears posing with a representative of the Taiwanese Trade Office takes on serious significance. Having an undefined view on the case of Taiwan or the statements that the president has made since the Chinese government lambasted him due to ideological prejudices does not help at all. Argentina is officially committed to respecting the principle of One China, and similarly, China has always committed to respecting Argentine sovereignty regarding the question of the Malvinas Islands.

In this way, Argentina maintains allies in its pursuit to end Britain’s occupation of the Falkland Islands, a cause that could be strengthened following the UK’s return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

\*

Click the share button below to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

### **[Birds Not Bombs: Let's Fight for a World of Peace, Not War](#)**

*This article was originally published on [InfoBrics](#).*

**Ahmed Adel** is a Cairo-based geopolitics and political economy researcher. He is a regular contributor to Global Research.

*Featured image is from InfoBrics*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Ahmed Adel](#), Global Research, 2024

---

### **[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)**

### **[Become a Member of Global Research](#)**

Articles by: **[Ahmed Adel](#)**

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)