



Honourable Members of the  
Mauritius National Assembly

**Sevim Dagdelen**  
Member of the German Bundestag

**Gregor Gysi**  
Member of the German Bundestag

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Member of the German Bundestag

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**Alexander Neu**  
Member of the German Bundestag

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Member of the German Bundestag

## **Visit by the German frigate “Bayern” to the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean in violation of international law**

Honourable Members, dear Colleagues,

On 2 August the German frigate warship “Bayern” left Germany for a six-month voyage in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. The objectives of the voyage were supposedly “strengthening international law” and protecting “free trade routes”. In reality however it was a display of military power towards China, continuing the disastrous tradition of German colonial policy. Those of us who oppose this action say that German navy should not display any military presence in either the Indian Ocean or the South China Sea. The audacious demonstration of power by the frigate “Bayern” cannot be reconciled with the defence mandate of Germany’s Basic Law.

We are especially concerned by the fact that as part of its demonstration of military power in the Indian Ocean, the German navy intends to call at the Chagos Archipelago. This takes place in breach of the judgment by the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea of 25 January 2021, confirming the ruling by the International Court of Justice of February 2019 which awarded the archipelago to Mauritius. The planned arrival of the frigate “Bayern” at the Chagos Archipelago is a blatant violation of international law and also a slap in the face of the inhabitants of the Chagos islands and their descendants, who were deported from the islands in 1966 and 1973 in violation of human rights and international law, in order to ensure that the military base leased to the United States by the United Kingdom, on which thousands of US troops and bomber aircraft remain stationed to this day, be handed over “unpopulated”.

It is shameful that the German Federal Government has not supported the resolution by the UN General Assembly of 22 May 2019, in which 116 states called upon the United Kingdom to return the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius within six months.

Colleagues,

We stand on the side of the people of Mauritius in their fight against colonialism and for the handover of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. We will not relent in our condemnation of this ongoing colonial injustice and our urging for the closure of the US military base and for a right to return for the inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago.



Colleagues,

We also wish to inform you of our concern regarding the news that has reached us from the 12 kilometre long island of North Agaléga located in the Indian Ocean and part of Mauritius, where an Indian military base is said to be under construction, with a three kilometre long airstrip for larger aircraft and a naval port for monitoring Chinese trade routes. We are also deeply concerned by the statements coming from Agaléga describing the island's destruction.

The militarisation of the Indian Ocean threatens the welfare of the people and nature on these paradisiacal islands. We support the fight by the people of Mauritius to take a stand against this devastating militarisation and to hold fast to the rejection of any form of neo-colonialism and not to allow any foreign military bases on Mauritian islands and to establish Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The time of colonial territorial claims and military displays of power in the Indian Ocean must finally be put in the past.

Colleagues,

We therefore ask you to address the German Federal Government to demand that it call off the planned visit by the German frigate "Bayern" to the Chagos Archipelago which is in violation of international law, and that in future it finally commits, like the large majority of states within the UN General Assembly, to lobbying for the United Kingdom to return the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. A further breach of the judgment by the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea of 25 January 2021 by the German Federal Government is unacceptable and would amount to an ongoing blatant violation of international law.

Respectfully yours,

**Sevim Dagdelen**

**Gregor Gysi**

**Heike Hänsel**

**Zaklin Nastic**

**Diether Dehm**

**Alexander Neu**

**Tobias Pflüger**

Berlin, 27 august 2021