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MALDIVIANS FOR CHAGOS
An Indian Ocean decolonisation initiative

Annex III

Chronology of Key Events Relating to the Maldives and the Chagos Archipelago (Indicative, non-exhaustive chronology for record purposes only)

1. Pre-Colonial and Early Colonial Period

- **Pre-16th century**

Maldivian navigational knowledge, maritime usage, and seasonal presence (bandaha jehun) extend across the central Indian Ocean, including the Chagos Archipelago (Foalhavahi), reflected in oral history, navigational practice, and regional memory.

- **16th–18th centuries**

European powers (Portuguese, Dutch, French) operate in the Indian Ocean without extinguishing Maldivian political continuity or maritime usage of the Chagos region.

2. British Ascendancy and Cartographic Intervention

- **1796**

Britain inherits former Dutch possessions and spheres of influence in the Indian Ocean. British influence over the Maldives becomes de facto, though not yet formalised by treaty.

- **Early 19th century**

British naval and hydrographic surveys, including those associated with Captain Robert Moresby, impose imperial cartographic frameworks on the central Indian Ocean. These surveys contribute to the administrative separation of the Chagos Archipelago from the Maldivian maritime space.

- **1810**

British seizure of individuals from the Chagos region is recorded in colonial prize proceedings. Subsequent administrative reclassification practices obscure the identities of non-African captives, contributing to later disputes concerning origin and status.

3. Formalisation of British Control

- **1887**

The Maldives is formally designated a British Protectorate, transferring control over external affairs to the United Kingdom while preserving internal governance. Earlier cartographic and administrative separations affecting Chagos are not revisited or corrected.

4. United Nations Framework and Non-Reporting

- **1945**

Establishment of the United Nations and the Charter framework governing decolonisation and the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

- **1946**

The United Kingdom submits information under Article 73(e) of the Charter of the United Nations concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Maldives is not listed or reported as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, despite being under British protection at the time.

- **1946–1965**

No Article 73(e) reporting is submitted by the United Kingdom in respect of the Maldives during the period of British protection. The absence of reporting excludes the Maldives from formal United Nations decolonisation oversight mechanisms.

- **1946–1965**

The Chagos Archipelago is administered by the United Kingdom without being reported as a Non-Self-Governing Territory distinct from the Maldives or otherwise subjected to United Nations decolonisation supervision.

5. Decolonisation Era

- **1960**

Adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), affirming the right of colonial peoples to self-determination and the prohibition on the dismemberment of colonial territories prior to independence.

- **1965**

The Maldives attains independence. The Chagos Archipelago is not restored to Maldivian administration and remains under British control.

- **1965–1966**

Creation of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) by the United Kingdom.

6. Post-Independence Developments

- **1960s–1970s**

Removal of the Chagos population and consolidation of military use of Diego Garcia.

- **1980s–2000s**

Continued exclusion of the Maldives from formal international processes addressing the status of the Chagos Archipelago.

7. International Proceedings and Decisions

- **2015–2018**

Initiation of proceedings by Mauritius concerning the Chagos Archipelago in international fora.

- **2019**

Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice concerning the decolonisation of Mauritius. The Maldives is not a party to the proceedings.

- **2021**

Decision of an ITLOS Special Chamber in the Mauritius–Maldives maritime delimitation case, limited to jurisdictional considerations and maritime delimitation.

8. Recent Developments

- **2023–2024**

Intensification of diplomatic engagement concerning the future status of the Chagos Archipelago.

- **2025**

Correspondence between Pen for Rights – Maldivians for Chagos and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office regarding the Maldivian dimension of the Chagos question.

- **2025**

Intervention by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination calling for restraint in the implementation of arrangements concerning the Chagos Archipelago.

- **22 December 2025**

Submission of the present Supplementary Submission by Pen for Rights - Maldivians for Chagos for placement on the international record.

Note
This chronology is provided for orientation and record purposes only. It does not prejudge legal conclusions or substitute for the substantive analysis contained in the main submission and associated annexes.