

# Natoizing Diego Garcia

## **A proposal for ending 50 years of Anglo-American shame in the Indian Ocean**

The original inhabitants of Diego Garcia and a small group of neighbouring islands (collectively known as the Chagos Islands) were forcibly removed by the British government over 40 years ago to make way for US military base. The British authorities aided and abetted by the US government, continue to prevent their return to this day. The story of the exile of the Chagossians from their homeland is one of the most shameful episodes in Britain's 'special relationship' with the United States. As part of a solution to their return home, could Diego Garcia become the flagship of NATO transformation and the future hub of fully integrated and multidisciplinary peacekeeping, crisis management and disaster relief operations?

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