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Mauritian Overseas Gazette



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Views expressed by contributors are their own

This publication is not a newspaper. The Mauritian Overseas Gazette is a Magazine.

Government introduces Kreol Morisien Booklets to strengthen understanding of fundamental Human Rights



Two booklets in Kreol Morisien on the Convention to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr Dhananjay Ramful launching the publications

The Human Rights Division, operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, convened the annual National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up meeting on 30th April, in Port Louis, to review progress and reinforced efforts to ensure Mauritius meets its international human rights obligations.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of two booklets in Kreol Morisien on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These publications aim to make essential human rights principles more accessible to the citizens.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mr Dhananjay Ramful, the Junior Minister, Mr Hambyrajen Narsinghen, the Chairperson of the Creole Speaking Union, Professor Arnaud Carpooran, representatives from Ministries, National Human Rights Institutions, and Civil Society attended the event.

In his address, Minister Ramful described the launch as a significant milestone. He emphasised that translating the conventions into Kreol Morisien will help Mauritians better understand their rights and the principles behind these international agreements. He noted that the initiative reflects Government's commitment to protecting human rights, eliminating discrimination, and fostering an inclusive society with equal opportunities for all.

He further highlighted the unifying role of the Creole language in Mauritius, stating that it serves as a powerful tool to remove barriers. Making these conventions available in Kreol Morisien ensures that citizens are more aware of their fundamental rights, he stated. The booklets will be distributed across public institutions, to concerned stakeholders as well as in schools, ensuring that the young are informed about their rights

It is recalled that Mauritius acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 30 May 1972 and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 12 December 1973.

GIS



Economic Development Board (EDB)

Mauritius expert driving economic growth in the Republic of Mauritius

☆Mauritius ranked Africa's most stable country in 2025, with the lowest political and economic risk

Mauritius has once again distinguished itself on the African continent, securing the top position as the most stable and least risky country in Africa for 2025, according to the Africa Country Instability Risk Index (ACIRI) published by SBM Intelligence, in November 2025.

With the lowest risk score of 17, Mauritius ranks as the safest country in Africa,

reflecting strong governance, economic stability and minimal geopolitical threats.

Mauritius stands in the "Safe" category, defined as countries scoring below 30, based on their aggregate risk scores.

The Caviar Story

Did you know that Caviar used to be peasant food?

This article is picked up from the Link-In post of Safaa Charafi. (Architect & Urbanist | Gender, Spatial Justice & Climate Adaptation). Authorisation asked for.



Safaa Charafi

Russian fishermen ate it because it was cheap and abundant, until Ivan the Terrible reportedly developed a taste for it, the aristocracy followed and centuries of overfishing later, it became the lavish product we know today. Luxury was manufactured through both desire and scarcity.

I think about this when I think about our medinas.

Neither of my parents ever lived in one. My father grew up in a plush villa in Rabat; they were the only Moroccan family in that French neighbourhood.

My mother grew up in Aïn Chock, a workers' neighbourhood in Casablanca that the colonial planner Michel Ecochard designed in the 50s to look vaguely traditional (a modest imitation of the Habous, itself a fake medina the French built to house Moroccans they were keeping out of the Ville Nouvelle). So the closest my family ever got to Medina life was a colonial simulation of it.

As a kid, I was not particularly impressed by Medinas. I wouldn't have traded our apartment

in the Art Nouveau neighbourhood for anything I saw in those narrow streets; the houses looked poor to me, and belonged to a past Morocco had moved on from (I thought honestly, who wanted to live there?).

Then I got older (and wiser), and had serious regrets.

By 2008, roughly 70% of the 450 converted guesthouses in Marrakech's medina were foreign-owned. Prices rose 15% annually through the early 2000s, and foreigners now account for an estimated 70 to 80% of Morocco's luxury real estate buyers.

A renovated riad today costs between €600,000 and €1.4 million (if you look up ads it's all in EUR and not MAD). Residents describe a "feeling of oppression" and a "sense of suffocation", some even joke about "soon needing a visa to enter the medina".

We Moroccans, broadly, cannot afford our own country anymore. I want a riad now but it's too late. I wish my parents had thought of opening a trust fund instead of telling me school would give me stability (it clearly did not; I've never

been as financially precarious as after accumulating this many degrees).

Which brings me to the studying part (because jokes on me, if I can't accumulate capital, I'll accumulate knowledge).

I was selected for the Urban Heritage Strategies course at IHS, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, run jointly with the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, focused on historic cores in African cities. Great news, even if I don't sound thrilled.

I worked on these questions before, particularly heritage preservation in Jordan, with Cities Alliance. And I'm now looking forward to going deeper and making better sense of how a Medina I once walked past without flinching became the caviar of our cities, and something none of us can afford.

Sources: Maciej Kalaska / University of Warsaw via Fair Observer; New York Times; Sporn, M. (2019). Gentrification and European Entrepreneurship in Marrakesh.

Ah Lan Lam Yan Foon elected President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce



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Mauritius Pushes New "Diaspora Engagement Strategy"

Have you heard of the Mauritius Diaspora Engagement Strategy? This scheme offers incentives to professionals, entrepreneurs and investors living abroad to invest, mentor start-ups, and return for short-term or permanent placements.

Incentives can include fast-tracked residency permits and tax exemptions. Officials say the plan seeks to "connect the Mauritian mind and capital abroad with opportunities at home".

The scheme may benefit skilled professionals or retirees seeking to contribute to Mauritius without uprooting entirely. Find out more: Diaspora for Development Brief (<https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp->

Mauritius Financial Strategy Invites Diaspora Expertise

Mauritius' government and private-sector partners have launched a five-year strategy to grow its financial services hub, following a report by the Ministry of Financial Services and Economic Planning.

The plan aims to redefine the nation's financial services industry, eventually positioning Mauritius as the leading International Financial Centre (IFC) for Africa and Asia, anchored by sustainability, technology and excellence. Finance and fintech professionals in the diaspora may have the opportunity to engage with Mauritius' evolving financial ecosystem — either through consultancy work, remote projects, etc.

Further details: Sovereign Group Financial Strategy Summary (<https://www.sovereign-group.com/news/mauritius-unveils-ambitious-five-year-strategy-for-financial-services-sector/>)

What goes round comes round

Is British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer receiving his Karma?

Sir Keir Starmer (SKS), leader of the Labour Party, whose wife is Jewish has of late been accused, by formerly Conservative (now Reform UK) MP Suella Braverman whose husband is Jewish, of failing to give protection to the British Jewish community following the stabbing of two Jews in Golders Green, Northwest London. The majority of British Jews have elected domicile in Golders Green.

In response to Braverman's accusation, Starmer convened a top-level summit at Downing Street on May 5, 2026 to address the antisemitic crisis in the UK.

The agony of SKS has now being compounded by the loss of various constituency seats at the May local Government Elections. In spite of his humiliation, SKS says he will not resign as Party leader, though several members expect that of him.

Under Starmer, the British Labour Party has become unelectable. The situation is reminiscent of the leadership of Tony Blair, another rightwing Labour Leader, who made the Party unelectable by the time he was compelled to pass on the leadership to Gordon Brown as a result of their power-sharing agreement in 1994. It was hard for him to abide by the agreement and to step down in June 2007, hard to give up so much and be a nullity overnight. Starmer is experiencing the same feeling.

In the wake of the stabbing of the two Jews in North London, Suella Braverman accused Keir Starmer of "gaslighting" the Jewish community in the UK, in other words of encouraging the torture of the Jews in the country.

Wherever, the Cambridge legally-trained lady got that idea? She should still have in mind Starmer's anti-semitism campaign against Jeremy Corbyn no sooner he took over from him the leadership of the Labour Party in 2020.

On the ground of Corbyn's alleged antisemitism stance, Starmer got him barred from standing as a Labour candidate, and in 2024, he got him expelled from the Labour Party. And now the good leader is himself being accused of *gaslighting* the Jews. Is that a form karma?

For the information of Mrs Braverman, the cruelty being perpetrated by the Jews in Gaza and Lebanon horrifies the decent people of this planet.

How can one be without feeling while witnessing on TV, children being starved to death, little boys arrested and detained by Jewish soldiers,

Jewish hooligans taking possession of Gazans' properties and stealing their belongings. Palestinian houses being burned down, and thousands and thousands of Gazans, children, women and elderly made homeless and having to scrape a living as best as they can !!!



Prime Minister Keir Starmer being quizzed in the Commons on the appointment of Peter Mandelson as Ambassador to the US

These criminal acts make one's blood boil with anger. Does Mrs Braverman find it strange that there are reprisals, here and here, in protest against these reprehensible crimes? ***This is a time when one may be forgiven for questioning the existence of a creator sitting in his heaven admiring all that cruelty on earth on the part of his own chosen people.***

Own Medicine

Coming back to Sir Keir Starmer, he is receiving a bit of his own medicine. What you do

unto others may be done unto you. He is having a harder time with his reputation in tatters. He is being investigated by the House of Commons for failing to vet Lord Peter Mandelson for the post of Ambassador to the US in December 2024.

He claims that he was not aware of the fact that Mandelson was security risk. An eminent lawyer and a one-time Director of Prosecutions claiming IGNORANCE as an excuse. "C'est inouï", as they say in French. Something extraordinary and never heard of!

In a previous article, we said that the present



Labour leader was a marked man, a lame duck, and that under him the Labour Party would be wiped out of Government at the next general election. There are now elements in his own Labour Party who are expressing this view and want him replaced.

The damage done to the Labour Government so far can be repaired during the next three years if the incumbent leader would go. But he would not. He still believes he is the darling of the British people.



Reform UK MP Mrs Suella Braverman

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On the other hand, the taste of power is a taste that cannot be given up voluntarily. Many have left Downing Street in tears. Margaret Thatcher did, and so did Tony Blair. Gordon Brown went out power at the 2010 General Election or failing to understand the mood of

the nation and he brought the Labour Party down with him. And so will Starmer if he does not go NOW. But, it's hard for him to give up all that greatness, comfort and benefits.

Sometimes, these premiers have to be dragged out of No 10 with their families and all. To protect himself, the Prime Minister is now planning to ban public demonstrations in

the UK.

It will soon be an offence to demonstrate in the country. Like Trump in America, he will turn the country into a dictatorship. He wants a break from criticism and he has told the nation that the blame of his administration must stop NOW.

K. Lingen

Violence cannot be condoned - No Room for Revenge

"If to violence we answer by violence when will violence end"

"An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind"

These sayings were from the great Mahatma Gandhi who was an advocate of Non-Violence.

The violence against the jews in North London cannot be condoned no more than the killings and the pillage, the plunder, the looting and ransacking going on in Palestine can be condoned!

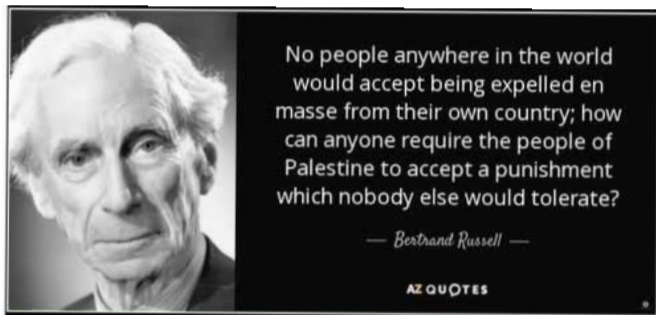
When, at an early age, I read the Diary of Anne Frank about the German ill-treatment and genocide of the Jews, I cried.

When I see on TV the misery of the children of Gaza, my heart bleeds.

Peter Chellen

Israel is starving people in Gaza to steal their lands and possessions

To use an expression of Professor Henry Higgins only a "Heartless Guttersnipe" can be indifferent to the sufferings of the people of Gaza inflicted by Netanyahu and his hordes.



Jewish people themselves in Jerusalem protesting against Netanyahu's Gaza genocide



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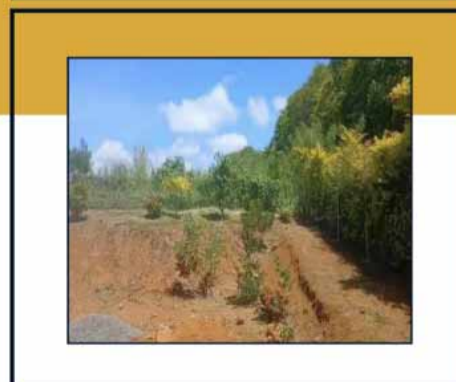
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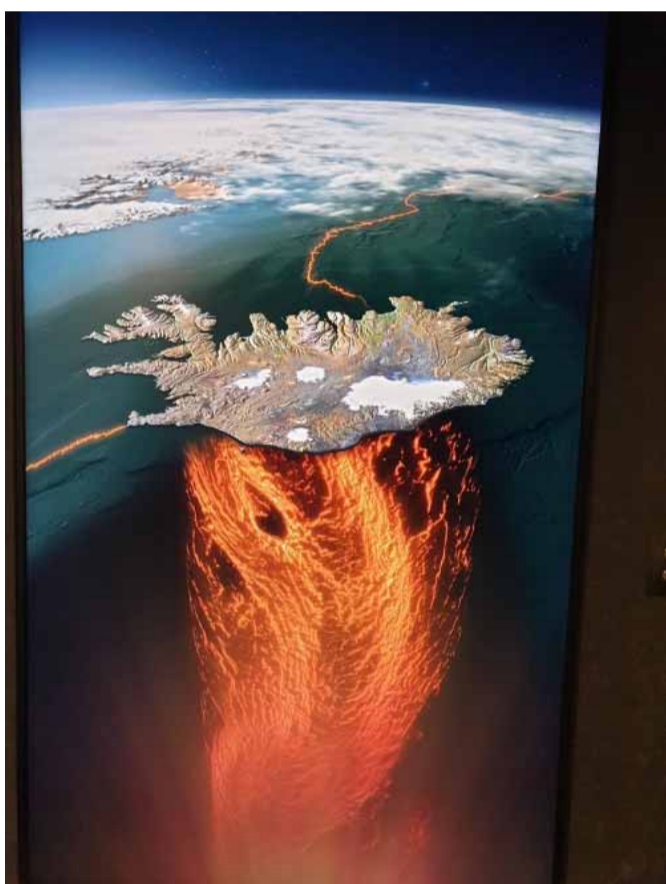
From Mylene



Black volcanic stones in contrast to the brightly painted houses

It's just a two and a half hour flight from Manchester to Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. Sitting on a volcanic hotspot, the island is packed with dramatic landscapes - volcanoes, lava fields, geysers, waterfalls and glaciers.

Often called the Land of Fire, it was this mix of heat and ice that drew me in. With a population of around 400,000, it feels vast, open, and refreshingly uncrowded.



A visualization of the column of fire beneath Iceland

The Golden Circle is Iceland's most famous sightseeing route, often described as a perfect day trip from Reykjavik, taking in some of the country's most dramatic landscapes

Tours not being my thing, I chose to hire a car and I can honestly say one day isn't enough if you want to truly take it all in.

For instance, while it may only be a 40-50min drive from the capital to the Blue Lagoon, taking the scenic route to enjoy the most spectacular views, can easily turn into a two hour journey.



Grey Strokkur erupting



Stunning Landscape



Hallgrímskirkja Church inspired by lava flow and basalt columns



The Blue Lagoon Thermal Water

And once you arrive, it's not just a quick stop. You can spend hours soaking in the warm thermal waters, then into the cafe for something to eat. You can even stay overnight, something a rushed tour simply can't do justice.

Would I recommend driving in Iceland?

Yes, even though they drive on the right hand side, the roads are straight and easy to navigate. There's very little signage once you leave Reykjavik, but the sat-nav will get you to your location, albeit in a roundabout way.

Parking in the capital is a bit of a headache. Between 9am-9pm it's paid, often with a maximum stay of three hours. It's worth downloading the parking app, as the machines are only in Icelandic. That said, the natives are friendly and willing to help.

If Iceland were a warm country, I'd be tempted to move there tomorrow.

Life is undeniably expensive, a simple sandwich in a tourist spot can cost between 12-25 pounds. You won't find any discount stores or rows of designer brands in town.

Instead, most shops focus on Icelandic goods: high quality, well made, and often just as highly priced. What you also won't find is the usual barrage of advertising or the constant hum of visual and urban clutter, although to be fair, the pub next door did keep the music going until 11pm.

It made me realize that a good lifestyle isn't defined by price tags, but by quality, the comfort, care, and quiet enjoyment woven into everyday life.



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