

BR33ET

June 06, 2023

Dear Mr President,

Please permit me to introduce myself, and at the same time, crave your indulgence to hear me out on a topic that is very dear to my heart. My name is Maisie Barrett. I was born in England of Jamaican parentage. My parents migrated to the UK shortly after World War II. At the age of 6 years old, I was categorised as being “Educationally Subnormal” and sent to a special school, regarded by many educators, as a ‘dustbin school’. I was a dyslexic child made educationally subnormal which greatly slowed down my development. I left school with hardly any social skills and until my early 30s, I could barely read or write. Therefore, it is a miracle that I am able to write this letter to you.

Mr President, it's against this backdrop that I have taken up this huge responsibility to address you in your capacity as a powerful leader of the free world on a matter of grave injustice and human rights violations inflicted upon the small nation of Grenada by the United States: the invasion of Grenada and the injustices and human rights violations meted out to the Grenada 17, as a result.

I am asking the United States Government to explain and publicly apologise for three fatal occurrences that they were chiefly responsible for in Grenada in 1983, outlined below. This expression of sorrow should recognise the harm inflicted on the inhabitants of Grenada and the infringement of their independence and express sympathy for the lives and property lost.

In 1983, why did the US army unlawfully invaded Grenada causing deaths and destruction? After carrying out thorough research, I find no justification for this invasion other than Grenada's relationship with Cuba and the Soviet Union. Surely, every country is entitled to their own political beliefs and the building up of diplomatic relations, as long as they do not wage war on others, like the said war that was waged by the Americans on Grenada.

Secondly, in the wake of the invasion, the United States financed and established a court in Grenada widely condemned as illegal, that unlawfully convicted and sentenced the Grenada 17: Bernard Coard, Selwyn Strachan, the late Phyllis Coard, General Hudson Austin, Ewart Layne, Liam James, Leon Cornwell, Dave Bartholomew, Bartholomew and John Ventour, to death for the killing of Maurice Bishop and others, as part of their plan to finally destroy the Revolutionary Government because this seems to be the main objective.

I am asking you to please promptly conduct a rigorous and scrupulous investigation, because they were unfairly tried and found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging in a biased court. Until you accomplish this, they must remain blameless of all the allegations made against them because, to this very day, they maintain their innocence.

Subsequently either the case is reopened for a retrial, or Grendada17 should be totally exonerated of the charges in all areas.

I beseech you to please read Phyllis Coard's book UNCHAINED in order to hear, see, feel and to smell the injustice of the conviction and the prodigious impact this whole horrifying ordeal had on her and her colleagues, their children and extended family, as innocent people.

Finally, I would also like you to not only apologise for their seizure but to also release and return the remains of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and those who were killed with him.

Since the death of Maurice Bishop and his government ministers, 40 years on their children, extended family, friends and country are still waiting to lay them to rest and say their last goodbyes. However, this is an impossible task because they are denied this accomplishment because US Government continue to maintain possession of their remains that rightfully belong to their family and the Grenadian people.

It is an incontestable fact that both the American government and its people would never accept another country withholding the remains of any members of their Government. To support my statement, one of the justifications Reagan used to invade Grenada was to protect American students. Grenadians would like to do likewise and protect what belongs to them.

Therefore, on 25th October 2020, the Committee for Human Rights in Grenada – UK (CHRG-UK), supported by Grenada – Forward Ever and Caribbean Labour Solidarity, initiated a campaign to recover and return the remains of the slain leaders of the Grenada Revolution, Maurice Bishop, Fitzroy Bain, Norris Bain, Jacqueline Creft, Vincent Noel, and Unison Whiteman. Ignoring this request, will stain America's reputation in perpetuity.

It is an embarrassment and humiliation and a grave dishonour that America, being the most esteemed, influential and powerful country in the world, invaded a tiny island with an army of only 500 soldiers, financed an irregular court hearing that convicted and sentenced the Grenada 17 to death and decades long terms of imprisonment, and took the remains of both the island's Prime Minister, and his ministers.

The entire world would agree that the time to explain the cause of the war, apologise, and strive to obtain justice for the Grenada 17, and finally deliver and return the remains of Maurice Bishop and his ministers, has been long delayed.

As a global leader, the United States has a responsibility to uphold human rights and promote justice. Taking all the steps I have requested for in this letter would be an important demonstration of that commitment.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this letter, and look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,

Maisie Barrett,

Human rights campaigner,

Post Script: I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister of Grenada and the various undermentioned organisation: The United Nation Human Rights Commission, Commonwealth of Nations. The O.A.S. Human Rights Body; CARICOM Heads of Government, Amnesty International, The Secretary of State of The United States of America, The Congressional Black Caucus, The leader of the House of

Representatives, The leader of the Senate and The National Association of the Advancement of Coloured People.