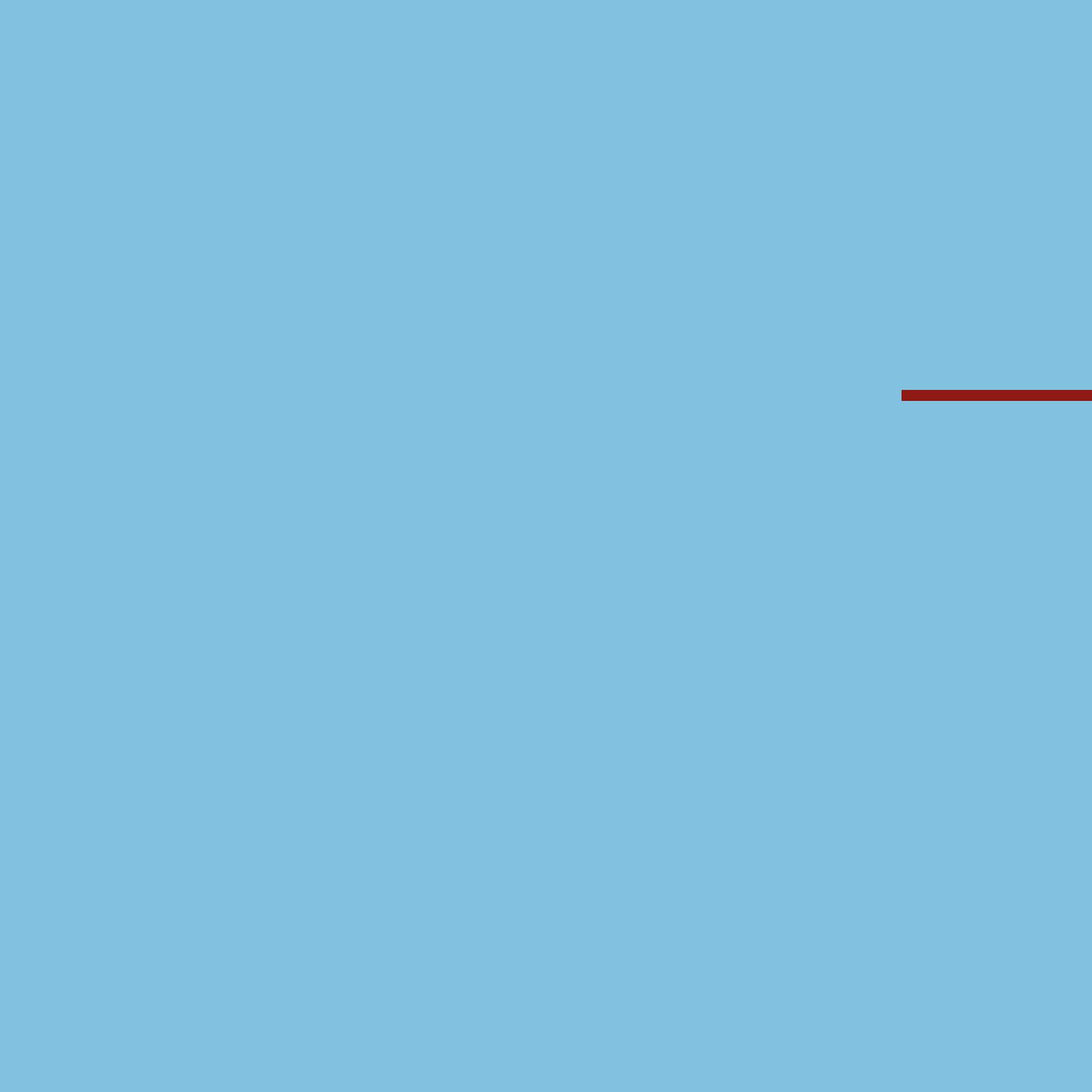


FALKLAND ISLANDS

Facts & Fictions



50 YEARS OF ARGENTINE FALSEHOODS
AT THE UNITED NATIONS





In September 1964, José María Ruda, Argentina's Representative to the United Nations addressed the UN Subcommittee III on the subject of the Falkland Islands; this later became known as the 'Ruda Statement.'

The Ruda Statement led to the adoption of UN Resolution 2065 (XX) by the General Assembly and is the foundation for the Government of Argentina's arguments that the Falkland Islands should be Argentine.

Ruda's 8,000 word speech was littered with falsehoods and inaccuracies, which the Government of Argentina has continued to use in front of the United Nations for the past 50 years and which it continues to use to influence the international community.

FICTION

Britain forcibly expelled the Argentine population living in the Falkland Islands in 1833

...under the threats of its guns, the British fleet evicted a peaceful and active Argentine population...

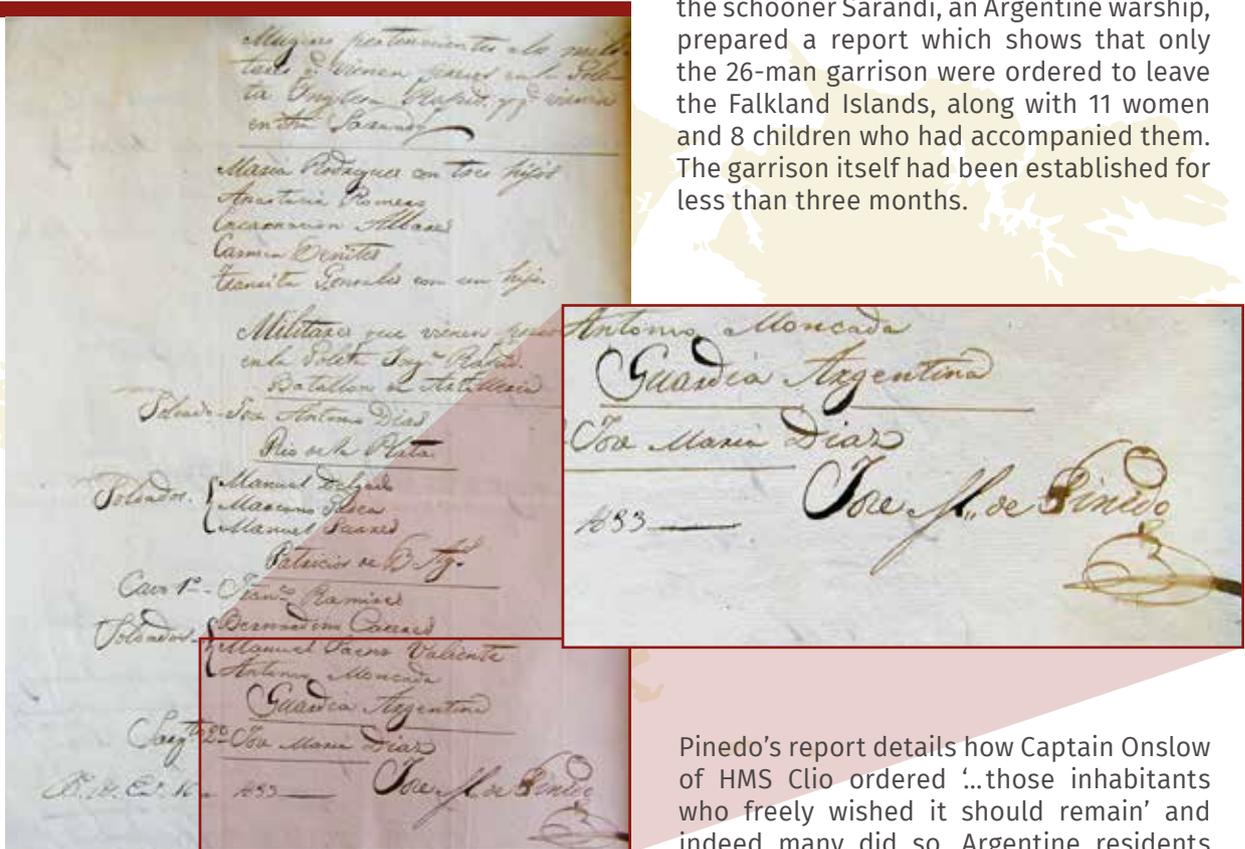
~ José María Ruda, 1964

The Government of Argentina describes January 1833 as the point in which the United Kingdom usurped the Islands from Argentina, and forcibly ejected every Argentine resident from the Islands.

FACT

Britain claimed the Falkland Islands in 1765, establishing a settlement at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, prior to any Spanish claim to the Islands. In January 1833, following the reassertion of British administration of the

Islands, José María Pinedo, commander of the schooner Sarandí, an Argentine warship, prepared a report which shows that only the 26-man garrison were ordered to leave the Falkland Islands, along with 11 women and 8 children who had accompanied them. The garrison itself had been established for less than three months.



Pinedo's report details how Captain Onslow of HMS Clio ordered '...those inhabitants who freely wished it should remain' and indeed many did so. Argentine residents who remained in the Islands included Antonina Roxa (a renowned gaucho and businesswoman who died in the Falklands in 1869) and Antonio Rivero.

FICTION

Britain replaced the population of the Falkland Islands with a temporary, implanted population of British citizens

...they were replaced, during those 131 years of usurpation, by a colonial administration and a population of British origin [...] and it is periodically renewed to a large extent by means of a constant turnover.

~ José María Ruda, 1964

Ruda claimed that the Falkland Islands population was formed by a rotation of British people sent from England on a regular basis. The Government of Argentina continues to describe Falkland Islanders as implanted people from England.

FACT

In the 1840s, British families did begin to settle in the Islands of their own free will. Descendants of those families are now ninth generation of those living in the Islands. However, it was not just British workers who arrived in the Islands in search of a new life.

Many emigrated from the South American continent, including José Llamosa, who arrived in 1847 from Uruguay aboard the *Napoleon*. Llamosa's son, Pedro was born in the Islands and went on to farm on West Falkland in his own right. 50 years after Ruda described Islanders as British implants, the sixth generation of Llamosa's descendants were born in the Falkland Islands.

Other notable settlers arrived from Scandinavia (the Larsens), Gibraltar (the Pitalugas) and Canada (the Aldridges). As of 2012 Census, 61 separate nationalities resided in the Falkland Islands.



Llamosa Family



Pedro Llamosa



Clara Cull and Anton Larsen
(courtesy of *The Falkland Collection*)

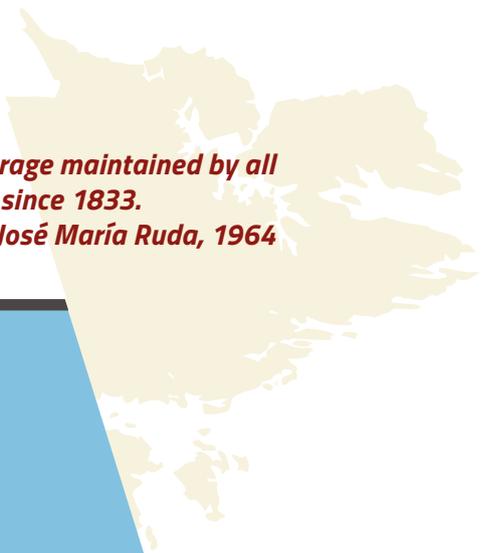
FICTION

Argentina has never accepted British control of the Islands and Argentina has never ceased to protest it

...by a sound and unbroken position of protest at the outrage maintained by all Argentine Governments that have succeeded each other since 1833.

~ José María Ruda, 1964

Argentina claims it has never relented over its claim to the Falkland Islands and has never and will never accept British sovereignty of the Islands.



FACT

In November 1849, the 'Convention of Peace' was signed between Felipe Arana (on behalf of the Argentine Confederation) and Henry Southern (on behalf of the United Kingdom). The Convention of Peace was ratified on 15th May 1850 in Buenos Aires and resolved all outstanding issues between Argentina and the United Kingdom, restoring 'perfect friendship' between the two nations. This includes the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

Between 1850 and the 1940s the Argentine Congress did not raise the issue of the Falkland Islands once. For almost one century after the Convention of Peace was signed, with the exception of an exchange of diplomatic letters between Britain and Argentina disputing a proposed new map of Argentina created by the Government of Argentina (the so-called 'Affair of the Map' between 1884 and 1888). There was no formal protest from the Government of Argentina until a brief mention of the Argentine claim in the ceremonial message opening Congress in 1941.



The Undersigned having met together for the purpose of exchanging the Ratifications of a Convention between Her Majesty The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Argentine Confederation, for the settlement of existing differences, and the reestablishment of perfect Relations of Friendship, concluded and signed at Buenos Ayres on the Twenty-fourth day of November 1849, And the respective Ratifications of the said Convention having been carefully compared, and found to be exactly conformable to each other, the said Exchange took place this day in the usual form.

In Witness whereof they have signed the present Certificate of Exchange, and have affixed thereto their respective Seals.

Done at Buenos Ayres, the fifteenth day of May 1850.

Henry Southern

Felipe Arana



FICTION

British sovereignty of the Falklands violates the territorial integrity of Argentina

Geographically they are close to our Patagonian coasts, they enjoy the same climate and have a similar economy to our own south-lands.

~ José María Ruda, 1964

The Government of Argentina believes that the Falklands should be Argentine as they are closer to the continent than they are to the United Kingdom, and that Argentina is incomplete without them. They also claim that they have never accepted that the Islands are not geographically part of Argentina.



FACT

In 1882, 42 years after the Convention of Peace, the Director of the Office for National Statistics of Argentina, Dr Francisco Latzina produced a map of Argentina, funded by the Argentine Treasury. This map, produced in Spanish, showed Argentine territory in a dark rusty colour and non-Argentine territory (such as Uruguay and Chile) in a paler beige. In this map, the Falkland Islands are shown in the pale beige of non-Argentine territories. Later, in 1918, the Agricultural Ministry produced a map of Argentina, showing agricultural areas and the railroad network.



This map, as with the Latzina Map 36 years earlier, shows the Falkland Islands in a different colour to continental Argentina. The Falklands, as a nation built on sheep farming, are clearly agricultural and if Argentina considered the Islands to be part of Argentina, why then are they not shown as such?

Finally, there is no established international law or principle that relates proximity to sovereignty – if there was, the world would likely look very different: the Channel Islands might be part of France, and St Pierre and Miquelon would be Canadian.

FICTION

The Falkland Islands are a colony of the United Kingdom and self-determination is not applicable to Falkland Islanders

...the indiscriminate application of the principle of self-determination to a territory so sparsely-populated by nationals of the colonial power, would place the fate of this territory in the hands of the power that has settled there by force, thus violating the most elementary rules of international law and morality.

~ José María Ruda, 1964

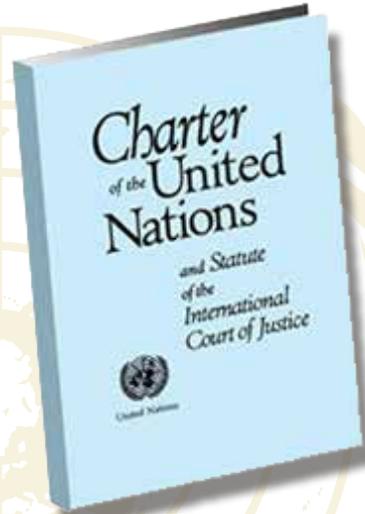
The Argentine Government claims the Islands are a colony of the United Kingdom, suffering under the yoke of London, and retained in order to control British interests in the South Atlantic.

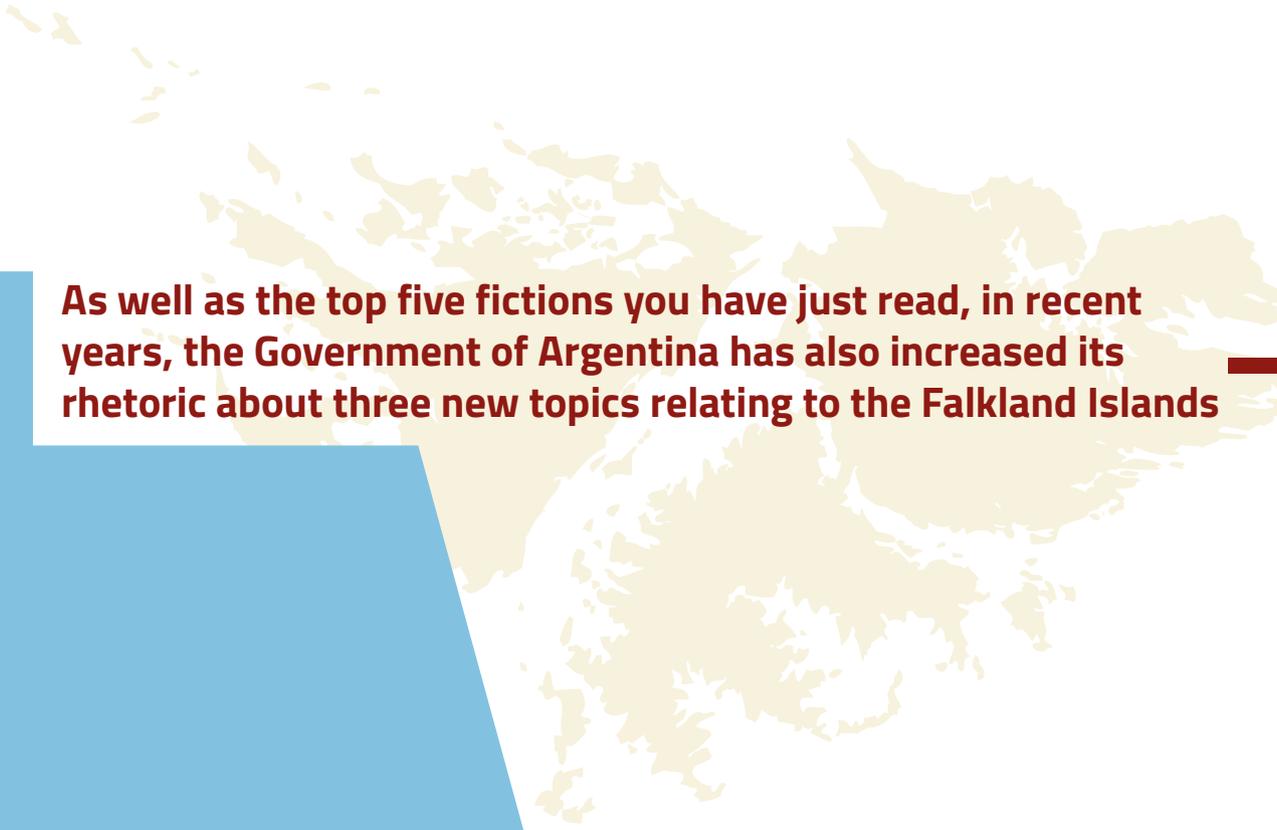
FACT

The Falkland Islands Constitution reflects the democratic processes undertaken by the people of the Falkland Islands to devolve power from the United Kingdom to the Government of the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are internally self-governing economically self-sufficient and are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. Our democratically elected Legislative Assembly writes the laws of the Islands, and sets the policies by which we live. The Government of the United Kingdom supports the Islands in terms of defence and foreign affairs.

Our democratic way of life was further demonstrated in March 2013 when in an internationally-observed referendum, we went to the polls, with 99.8% of those who voted choosing to remain a British Overseas Territory. Our relationship with the United Kingdom is one based on mutual respect.

Self-determination is a basic human right of all people, enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Falkland Islanders, who can trace heritage back nine generations in the Islands from Europe and Latin America, have the right to freely determine their own future and political allegiance. The Falkland Islanders have the right to self-determination by virtue of being on the UN list of Non Self Governing Territories; there is no exception to this. The Secretary General has confirmed that the UK is not in breach of any UN resolution on the Falkland Islands.





As well as the top five fictions you have just read, in recent years, the Government of Argentina has also increased its rhetoric about three new topics relating to the Falkland Islands

The heroism of Antonio 'El Gaucho' Rivero

The Government of Argentina has portrayed Antonio 'El Gaucho' Rivero as a folk hero who stood up in defiance of an overbearing British Government in the Falkland Islands. He has been commemorated in banknotes, and Presidential Decree 256 (preventing commercial vessels bound to, or from the Falkland Islands docking in Argentine ports under a British flag) is referred to colloquially as 'Gaucho Rivero's Law.'

IN REALITY

Antonio Rivero was a rogue and a murderer. He joined forces with seven other gauchos in the former capital Port Louis and murdered Captain Mathew Brisbane (Superintendent of the settlement) along with Juan Simon, Don Ventura Pasos, Anton Vaihinger and William Dickson in a dispute over pay. The men he murdered were all in the employ of fellow Argentine, Louis Vernet and their murders could hardly be considered a glorious national uprising; there were no British forces in the Islands at the time. Rivero later betrayed his accomplices to the British in the hopes of leniency in his own case.

Rivero ultimately escaped prosecution due to a lack of established judiciary and courts in the Islands at the time. Rivero, and accomplices, were all sent to England for trial but there was doubt as to whether they could fairly be considered British subjects, and only British subjects could be tried in Britain for homicides committed outside the British Isles. The group was returned to South America and released.

In 1966 and 2002, the Argentine History Academy, when asked to evaluate Antonio Rivero's life and position, judged him to be a criminal.

Militarisation of the South Atlantic

The Government of Argentina regularly claims that the Falkland Islands are the most militarised zone in the South Atlantic, and that the United Kingdom is militarising the region as a strategic NATO base.

IN REALITY

The military presence in the Islands is modest; it exists as a direct result of the illegal invasion of the Islands in 1982 (Argentina was ordered by UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/502 [1982] to withdraw and did not). Military presence has significantly decreased in size since 1982 and is relative to the perceived level of threat to the Islands.

In March 2015, Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon announced a £180m investment in maintenance and upgrades to infrastructure in the Islands, but there will be no increase in numbers to the 1,200 military servicemen and women currently in the Falklands.

Oil exploration in Falklands waters without Argentina's permission is reckless and is threatening the environment

The Government of Argentina has repeatedly stated that oil and gas exploration in Falklands waters without Argentina's support is reckless and will lead to an oil spill disaster on the scale of the Gulf of Mexico disaster. They say that the oil industry in the Islands is putting Argentine coasts at risk, and could damage the environment.

During the 1990s, the Government of Argentina agreed to co-operate with the governments of the Falkland Islands and United Kingdom in terms of oil exploration (the Oil Accord of 1995), and it was the Government of Argentina who unilaterally withdrew from these agreements in the early 2000s.

IN REALITY

We in the Falklands have a long history of environmental stewardship and have taken numerous steps to ensure that any offshore oil and gas activity is developed in a careful and sustainable way, without negative impacts on our pristine environment and our delicate ecosystems. Best practice regulation, health and safety and environmental management are adhered to. Peer-reviewed scientific research is at the forefront of our pledge to protect our environment as we look to a future in the oil and gas industry, and globally-recognised scientific institutes work alongside the Falkland Islands Government.







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for the
Falkland Islands Government

