



## **COMMUNIQUE**

### **PETER URICEK**

This communiqué intervenes following misinformation surrounding the lawful removal of Mr. Peter Uricek, a Slovakian national from the Mauritian Territory by Slovakian Authorities on Tuesday 26 April 2022. The information in this communiqué could only be released at this stage as some of this information pertained to an application before the Supreme Court that was disposed of on 28 April 2022.

At the time of his lawful removal from the Mauritian Territory on Tuesday 26 April 2022, Peter Uricek was the object of an Interpol Red Notice<sup>1</sup>. He was a fugitive wanted for prosecution and was, in terms of the Red Notice reported armed and dangerous.

Peter Uricek was wanted for prosecution in the Slovak Republic (a member of the European Union bound by the European Convention on Human Rights) for –

- a) establishing, masterminding and supporting a criminal group for which he is liable to a term of imprisonment of 5 to 10 years; and
- b) illicit manufacture, possession of trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, poisons or precursors, for which he is liable to a term of imprisonment of 20 to 25 years or life imprisonment altogether.

It is reported by the Slovakian Authorities that, for the period 2015 to 2018, Peter Uricek and the criminal group provided precursors in the form of pills for the production of approximately 480 kilogrammes of methamphetamine for a value of at least 16,800,000 euros.

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<sup>1</sup> Interpol Red Notices are issued for fugitives wanted either for prosecution or to serve a sentence. A Red Notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

On 19 April 2019, Peter Uricek was granted a 3-year Occupation Permit to stay and work in Mauritius as a professional employed by Euro-Cola (Mauritius) Limited, which professional, by law, needs to draw a minimum salary of 60,000 rupees per month. Latest searches have revealed that Euro-Cola (Mauritius) Ltd is a shell company having reported a loss of 48,532 rupees and total assets of 128,509 rupees for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

At the time of the lawful removal of Peter Uricek from the Mauritian Territory, there were extradition proceedings entered by the Attorney-General that were and are still pending against him before the District Court of Port Louis. This Office is informed that the next returnable date for the extradition hearing is 11 May 2022.

The Occupation Permit of Peter Uricek was expiring on 18 April 2022 and having regard to his reported status as an armed and dangerous fugitive wanted for prosecution in the Slovak Republic, a decision had to be taken on his application for the renewal of his Permit. It was thus decided to invoke section 6(1) and 9A(8) of the Immigration Act, which respectively provide as follows –

**6. Loss of status of resident**

*(1) Where, in relation to a resident, the Minister<sup>2</sup> is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, he may, in his absolute discretion, deprive him of his status of resident.*

**9A. Occupation permit**

*(8) Sections 6 and 6A shall apply to a person who has been issued with an occupation permit as they would have applied to a person who has acquired the status of resident.*

By Notice dated 15 April 2022, the Prime Minister deprived Peter Uricek of his status of resident, having been advised that sections 6(1) and 9A(8) of the Immigration Act operate independently of any pending extradition proceedings under the Extradition Act. The Notice clearly explained the reasons for the deprivation of the status of resident and was served by post, as required by section 6(6) of the Immigration Act, on 26 April 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> The Minister being the Prime Minister under section 2 of the Act

By virtue of section 6(5) of the Immigration Act, Peter Uricek had become a prohibited immigrant on 15 April 2022. The Slovakian Authorities informed that they would remove Mr. Uricek from the Mauritian Territory on 26 April 2022. The handing over to the Slovakian Authorities on 26 April 2022 was carried out with the assistance of the Mauritius Police.

On 26 April 2022 at around 14.15 and 14.50 hours respectively, an Order from the Supreme Court was served at the Passport and Immigration Office and this Office. The Order was an interim order in the nature of an injunction prohibiting and restraining the State of Mauritius, the Prime Minister, the Passport and Immigration Officer, the Attorney-General and the Director of Civil Aviation from –

*Quote*

- (i) deporting the applicant [Peter Uricek] from Mauritius without complying with the provisions of the Deportation Act; and*
- (ii) extraditing the applicant and/or removing him from Mauritius prior to the conclusion of the Extradition hearing (cause no. 1670/2022) before the District Court of Port Louis.*

*Unquote*

This Office stands advised that the Order of the Supreme Court (that has since been discharged on 28 April 2022) could not have been complied with for the reasons set out below.

Mr. Uricek was not deported from Mauritius, deportation having a special meaning and connotation under the Deportation Act and the provisions of the Deportation Act having never been invoked against Mr. Uricek.

Mr. Uricek was neither extradited from Mauritius as extradition could only have occurred following an order from the Attorney-General after a Judge or Magistrate had found Mr. Uricek liable for extradition pursuant to section 21 of the Extradition Act.

Nor was Mr. Uricek removed by the State of Mauritius, the Prime Minister, the Passport and Immigration Officer, the Attorney-General or the Director of Civil Aviation. The removal from Mauritius was effected

by the Slovakian Authorities after Mr. Uricek<sup>3</sup> was handed over by the Mauritius Police. It is here important to stress that at, no material time, was there any Supreme Court Order against the Police.

Institutions of this country have been taxed with flouting an Order of the Supreme Court when this was never the case.

This Office is also informed that the Police have been hindered in the performance of their lawful duties in the process of handing over Mr. Uricek to the Slovakian Authorities and that appropriate enquiries are being carried out to determine any criminal responsibility.

This Office reaffirms its commitment in seeing to it that –

- a) the rule of law is upheld in this country; and
- b) Mauritius incurs no reputational risk internationally by harbouring fugitives that are wanted for serious crimes in foreign jurisdictions, especially at a time when we are seeking to rebuild our economy and promote Mauritius as a reputable international financial centre.

**Prime Minister's Office**  
**30 April 2022**

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<sup>3</sup> Mr. Uricek had, at that point, no legal right to be in Mauritius being a prohibited immigrant having been deprived of his status of resident