



## Falkland Islands Government

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08 May 2019

Mr Arkady Dvorkovich  
FIDE President  
Avenue de Rhodanie 54  
Lausanne  
Switzerland

Dear Mr Dvorkovich

We are writing to you as President of the Fédération Internationale des Échecs to register a formal complaint on behalf of the Falkland Islands Government.

It has been brought to our attention that from 26-28 March 2019, a chess tournament entitled 'Tourneo de Ajedrez Islas del Sur' ('Chess Tournament of the South Islands') took place at Lafone House here in our capital city of Stanley, but was registered by the tournament adjudicator Mario Petrucci as having taken place in Argentina.

It further transpires that this is the second event to have taken place here in the Falkland Islands, with another tournament having been held last year, which again was registered as having been held in Argentina.

The two strands to our complaint are as follows:

- (i) The Falkland Islands is not the sovereign territory or property of Argentina, despite their persistent false claims to the contrary. We are a self-governed British Overseas Territory and the assertion that these tournaments officially took place in 'Argentina' is a serious affront to our fundamental human rights under the Charter of the United Nations.
- (ii) We find these continued attempts to politicise sports as a means to attack our right to self-determination and advance an erroneous claim on our sovereignty deeply troubling; it is a long-held principle of our Legislative Assembly that sport should not be made to carry a political agenda, and in situations where this arises it may call into question the neutrality of the sport and its ruling organisation.

We appreciate that, as a governing body for the sport overseeing thousands of event registrations each year, this situation may have passed somewhat under the radar particularly as the title 'Chess Tournament of the South Islands' sounds like a neutral nomenclature. However we trust that our complaint makes it clear that it is anything but a neutral situation.

We ask that you investigate this matter and the actions of the tournament adjudicator as we believe these attempts to register tournaments played in the Falkland Islands as having taken place on Argentine soil are deeply disrespectful to our way of life and have the potential to bring the sport into disrepute.

We look forward to receiving a favourable response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pollard', written in a cursive style.

The Hon. Mark Pollard, MLA  
Chair of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands

*CC. Nigel Short, Vice President, FIDE*