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Gibraltar saddened by passing of Baroness Thatcher

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar notes with sadness the death today of former UK Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

"Mrs Thatcher," as she was known around the world for the many years she held office, was a strong advocate of a British Gibraltar both during and after her time as Prime Minister.

She led the United Kingdom against Argentina over the invasion of the Falkland Islands in order to uphold the principle of the islanders' right to self-determination; an international legal principle of paramount importance to the People of Gibraltar.

Flags of all Government buildings will fly at half mast today and on the day of the funeral.

Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo, said: "Baroness Thatcher was the Prime Minister my generation grew up with. She broke the mould in many ways, principally as the first woman leader of the Conservative Party and the first - and to date only - female Prime Minister of the UK. In Government, she was controversial in some of the causes she championed. However, whether or not one agreed with all her policies or her methods, the fact remains that she was one of the most renowned leaders the United Kingdom has ever had. For a time, she embodied "Britannia" in the regard in which she was held worldwide as "The Iron Lady". On behalf of the People and Government of Gibraltar, we wish that she now rests in peace and offer our most sincere condolences to her family. Gibraltar will never forget her."

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