

# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

## MALDIVES

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February – June 2012

Compiled by Mariya Ali

June 2012



Mausooma of Maldives Democratic Party being led away by the Police.

*Mausooma was arrested on 19th March. I met her in the police station. She was initially very scared. But later in Dhoonidhoo she regained her composure.*

*Reported by: Aishath Aniya (detainee)*

## Table of Contents

<b>Background .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Testimonies .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hon Moosa Manik (Reeko) MP .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Hon Imthiyaz Fahmy MP .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Aishath Muna .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Yusra Hussain.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Mariyam Waheedha .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Areesha Ali .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Ibrahim Shaizan.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Aishath Shamha .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Ahmed Iyaz Saleem.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Ahmed Mazin Naeem.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Abdulla Ahmed Waseem .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Mohamed Saeed .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Aishath Aniya.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Aishath Jennifer .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Hussain Mohamed.....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Statements from Amnesty International .....</b>	<b>80</b>



## **BACKGROUND**

In October 2008, the Maldives voted in Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldivian Democratic Party as its first democratically-elected President. He was deposed in a coup d'état on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

Since the coup Maldivians have been active in expressing their disapproval of the administration that is led by former Vice President, Dr. Mohamed Waheed. Women in particular, have acted with persistence, asserting their views in peaceful protests calling for early elections, to stop human rights violations and violence. These protests have been dispersed by use of excessive force and violence by the police. Parliamentarians of the Maldivian Democratic Party were particularly targeted on 8 February 2012 when the party members took to the street in protest.

The international community had recognized the need for early elections including the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group and the European Union. Additionally, the Maldives being signatory to a number of documents that consider violence against women as a crime, the voices of these women who have undergone sexual abuse from the police should be heard and addressed appropriately. International measures need to be taken to prevent the long-term consequences such as entrenchment of police abuse and to break the causal link between such abuse and domestic violence.

This document contains a few testimonies of both men and women who were physically, mentally and sexually assaulted when taken into police custody during the period 8 February 2012 to date. Sexually abusive acts have been denied by the Maldivian Police Service and explained as following procedures and under the law.

Since 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to date over 600 people have been detained in total. Although most of them have been released now, several have cases pending against them; and more are being detained.

Human rights protection provided for in the Constitution of the Maldives 2008;

The right to:

- security of person and the right not be deprived thereof to any extent except pursuant to a law (*Article 21*),
- privacy (*Article 24*),
- freedom of media (*Article 28*),
- information (*Article 29*),
- freedom of association (*Article 30*)
- assembly (*Article 32*),
- freedom of movement and establishment (*Article 41*),
- protection from unlawful or arbitrary arrest (*Article 45*),
- the rights on arrest or detention (*Article 48*),
- assistance of a legal counsel (*Article 53*),
- protection from degrading treatment or torture (*Article 54*)

### **POLICE ACT**

Clauses 1, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of Article 7 of the Police Act.

Article 7: The duties of the police

(a) Set out below are duties of each and every policeman:-

(i) to fully abide by, comply with, and act according to the constitution of the Maldives and the Maldivian statutory laws and regulations;

(viii) to protect and respect the dignity of every individual and to uphold and protect the human rights of every individual while carrying out the role and functions of the police;

(ix) to use and utilise only the minimum amount of force necessary to carry out police duties at any given situation;

(xi) to ensure that no person is treated cruelly, inhumanely or in a degrading manner, or to make another person to do so or allow another person to do so;

(xii) to be responsible for the good health and medical condition of the persons under the care and custody of the police and to ensure that, where any such person needs medical attention, immediate steps are taken to provide such assistance;

Accountability ?

(xvii) to take full responsibility for all acts and omissions, and for all acts carried out pursuant to orders or commands given by oneself, while carrying out the role and function of a policeman.

### **Methodology**

The information in this report is based on accounts and statements collected by volunteers and also by officials of the Maldivian Democratic Party. Some were given in audio format in Dhivehi language and later translated into English. Where an audio/video format is used it is stated so.



Mariya Didi MP was beaten up, pepper sprayed and detained by the police on 8 February 2012





## TESTIMONIES

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

#### **Hon Moosa Manik (Reeko) MP (Report given by himself on video)**

Name of Victim:	Moosa Manik (Reeko)
Date of Birth:	9 February 1961
Designation:	Member of Parliament & Acting Chair of Maldives Democratic Party
Date abused:	08 February 2012
Human Rights Violating Authority:	Maldives Police Service
Location abuse took place:	Near Maldivian Monetary Authority (close to Republic Square)
Access to Lawyer:	N/A
Access to Family:	N/A
Access to Medical Professional:	Sought medical treatment in Sri Lanka on my own
Known Medical Conditions:	N/A

**HON. MOOSA MANIK (REEKO) MP**  
**(Acting Chairperson of MDP)**



08 February 2012

I am in the Interim Chairperson of the Maldivian Democratic Party. I was participating in a peaceful march with the rest of my party members when we were brutally attacked by the officers of the Maldivian Police Service and the Maldivian National Defence Force.

We were near Maldives Monetary Authority. While we were in there the police came, sprayed pepper spray and started beating us. We ran into the road, to the east of the market, and hid in a shop that was selling tiles, if I remember correctly. I walked in first followed by President Nasheed and Mariya Didi. We went into the back and stayed in the storage area.

Police came in after a while and asked the people at the counter where Mariya and them were. When the people at the counter did not respond the police charged into the back of the store and I said to the President, "They are coming to kill us and so I will just let them do what they want to do" and I walked out. The president followed saying, "Moosa don't go alone", followed by Maari. When they police looked at me [to hit me] the President said, "Don't hurt [him]" and they... hurled abuse at the President. Maari said the same thing. I said, "If you want to beat us beat me first" and by then they had already hit me on the face three or four times. They pointed their fingers at me and said, "You are a person we want to kill". It was the police who said that.

It was a very narrow path and they pushed me out, beating me. They threw me out on the doorstep and hit me in the groin with their boots. Two policemen were holding my hands, spread, and one person held me by the back, and everyone (police) was beating me. The people on the dhonis [boats] saw everything. One person hit me on the ribs with his boots. By the time I had my wits about me I could not breathe and I begged them to stop. I pleaded that I was dying. They said, "We want to kill you. Do not think you can behave like you do and get away. You will have to die today". They did not let me go and continued beating me. And I saw an MNDF [army] person. He ran to me hugged me and said, "Don't hit, and don't hit".

We reached MTCC [a local company] by then and they continued to beat me. I was surrounded. They were hauling abuse at me and spraying pepper spray into my eyes. One person forced my mouth open and sprayed. I fell over, coughing. The MNDF person was trying to protect me. Then came a police person in plain clothes... he was wearing a pair of shorts and a t-shirt... I know him. He jumped... and he tried to... and he said I want to embed this into your brain (probably a stick or a pole). It broke open a gash of about two inches and it hit the shoulder of the MNDF person. He was hurt too. And then... the blood was gushing out... and I fell onto the road. And they stomped onto my hand. They all seem to really enjoy hitting me in the groin.

Then I did not know where they were taking me, two persons were dragging me by the hands. Then they got into a dispute within themselves. One person was saying not to hit me. With my knowledge, a bunch of them in Star Force attire, some in plain blue and another bunch of them in the... the dark blue uniform continued to beat me. When the blood started flowing [from the groin] they asked me to, "Cover it with your hand... and you will die in a bit". Then did not know what they were saying. After that I did not know what was going on.

By the time we reached the bus I had nothing left in me. There was a brother [relative] in the bus and that's why I survived. When I got here I was in a lot of pain. My spine hurts a lot. And when I relieved myself I was bleeding and I was in a lot of pain for a long time.

I had to get medical treatment first in the Maldives and then in Sri Lanka.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.



Moosa Manik MP being led away by the police 8 February 2012



Moosa Manik MP in hospital 8 February 2012  
**Medical Report of Moosa Manik MP**

Full Name: **Muhammad Manik**

Age: **51 years** Sex: **Male**

Address: **M.Gulibagaruge, Male, Maldives**

Place of Examination: **Ward 18, Durdans Hospital, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Date of Admission: **09/02/2012** Time: **1.35 p.m.**

Date of Examination: **13/02/2012** Time: **3.00 p.m.**

BHT Number: **321872**

**History Given by the Patient:**

*He was assaulted by a group of police officers on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Male, Maldives. According to him they assaulted with Tasergun, batons, knife etc. he received a blow to the head with the knife after which it started bleeding heavily from the head and his clothes were soaked with blood. Then he was dragged, pulled and assaulted by many people. One of the police officers used a Taser gun to deliver an electric shock on to his right arm. He felt numb after receiving the shock. He also received blows with batons, fists etc. to his head, arms, chest, thighs etc. Some of the police officers kicked him with their boots to his chest and abdomen. Later he was forcefully pushed on to the ground and asked to kneel down. During this he struck both his knees hard on the ground. A person known to him dragged him away from the assailants and later he was taken to the hospital. At the hospital the wound in the left forehead was sutured. As he felt he was not safe there he decided to fly to Sri Lanka. Later on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 he arrived in Sri Lanka and got admitted to Durdans Hospital, Colombo.*



  
Dr. N. D. N. A. Mendis  
STELLATE, MBBS, MCh, FRCR (S) (UK)  
Consultant  
Department of Forensic Medicine  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Injuries:**

1. 3.5 cm long sutured cut injury over left upper forehead lying horizontally across with its medial end being 9 cm above and 4.5cm lateral to the root of the nose.
2. Contusion over the right side of the back of the head and which is tender measuring 4X4cm in size and lying 6cm medial and 7.5cm above the root of the left ear.
3. Brownish colour U shape contusion over the right shoulder with each limb of the U being 1.5 cm long and lateral limb of it being 4.5cm medial to the shoulder tip. Injury is slightly tender.
4. Scabbed abrasion 2X0.5cm in size lying across midline at upper chest close to the root of the neck.
5. A 9X6cm tender area over the right lower chest. Skin appears normal in colour.
6. A 7X6cm tender area over the medial border of the left shoulder blade on the back of the chest.
7. 3 blackish, dot like burn marks, each measuring 0.5cm in diameter and 1cm apart from each other almost lying in a straight line over the lateral (outer) aspect of right arm. Most posterior one is at higher level the other two lying in a line obliquely extending downward and medially (towards inner aspect). The lower most dot, is situated 10.5cm below the right shoulder tip.
8. Tram line contusion, brown in colour, 4.5 cm in length and two lines being 1cm apart and parallel extending across the outer aspect of the left arm placed 12cm below the shoulder tip. This injury is slightly tender.
9. A tender contusion measuring 1X1cm in size and brown in colour situated frontal aspect of right arm in its middle region.
10. A tender swelling over the outer aspect of the left thigh measuring 5X6cm area situated 12 cm below the left hip.
11. A tender swelling measuring 5X6cm in size on the outer aspect of the right thigh situated 12cm below the right hip.

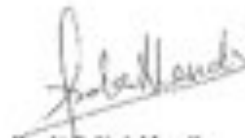


Dr. N. D. N. A. Meudla  
M.D., D.C., M.S., M.Ch., M.D. (Surg.)  
F.R.C.S. (Surg.)  
F.R.C.S. (Gen. Surg.)  
F.R.C.S. (Surg.)  
F.R.C.S. (Surg.)



*Opinion:*

- 1. Injury No: 1 is caused by a sharp weapon. It could have resulted in profuse bleeding and mild anaemia seen in the blood picture and full blood count is possibly due to acute bleeding due to injury.*
- 2. Injury No: 7 is compatible with an injury inflicted by a Taser gun, burns sustained due to discharge of an electric current.*
- 3. Injuries number 2-6 and 8-12 are due to trauma inflicted with blunt weapons.*
- 4. Injury number 8 is caused by and elongated weapon and possibly due to a baton considering the history given.*
- 5. Injury number 3 is possibly due to trauma inflicted with the end of a blunt elongated weapon.*
- 6. Injury pattern is compatible with an assault using multiple types of weapons and also compatible with the history.*
- 7. Presence of elevated levels of Creatinine Kinase indicate significant degree of musculo-skeletal trauma. There is a possibility of collective effect of musculo skeletal trauma e.g. contusion resulting in harmful and even lethal sequelae.*



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**Hon Imthiyaz Fahmy MP  
(Report given by himself)**

Name of Detainee: Imthiyaz Fahmy

Date of Birth: 05 November 1975

Designation: Member of Parliament

Date detained: 08 February 2012 (8.40 pm)

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Service

Condition of Arrest: Near Maldivian Monetary Authority (close to Republic Square)

Place detained: Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre

Access to Lawyer: Early hours of 9 February 2012

Access to Family: NA

Access to Medical Professional: NA

Known Medical Conditions: NA



## Details of the Arrests

### I. FIRST ARREST

On the 8th of February 2012 we had an MDP (Maldivian Democratic Party) meeting with regard to the Coup on the 6/7th February 2012. As we got there, people were flocking to the area in great numbers.

So we marched with the people towards the MDP headquarters with President Nasheed and other leaders of the party at the frontline. After that there was a peaceful march around Male, the capital.

Just before we reached Republic Square we were blocked in front of the Maldives Monetary Authority by the Maldives Police force and Maldives National Defence Force.

We then sat down on the road. I was sitting at the front few lines of the crowd. Suddenly without a prior warning, the security forces charged at us and blinded our eyes with pepper spray, tear gas and other smoke. This was with absolutely no warning.

They attacked the peaceful and unarmed people. The security forces seemed as if they targeting specific people, especially Members of Parliament and other leaders of the Party.

For each of us that were targeted and caught, there were many members of the security forces surrounding us. They were shouting obscenities and insults which indicated personal attacks towards us specifically.

They shouted \*\*\* this guy is too vocal, KILL HIM". They grabbed me and beat me, and when I fell down they kicked me with their shoes. They hit my shoulder with their batons and put my hand on the metal railing and tried to squash my fingers with their baton.

One of them tried to tear my ear off, but I was lucky to get away when stopped beating me when a cameraman came up to me and focused on what they were doing.

They then took me a few steps away to the Republic Square and handcuffed me and others from behind using cable ties.. They were shouting obscenities the entire time. Every policeman that went by was shouting obscenities, calling me names, and telling their colleagues to make sure I get put in a jail cell, and to destroy me.

Then they took me around 17.00 hours to the Police HQ and then to Dhoonidhoo Jail where there were other MPS amongst those that had been brutalized. There I met and heard the stories of other people who were attacked.

ON the boat to Dhooonidhoo, they not removed any of our handcuffs, we were cuffed from behind and we were not given life jackets.

We were first kept in an open area for about an hour, still with our handcuffs on until dinner time. We were not given any reason for arrest. We then waited until around 02.30 am when they took us to a jail cell, where six of us were kept. At around 03.30 am the President and Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) arrived. They questioned us on the events of our arrest. When they arrived they had only been informed that six people had been arrested and taken to Dhoonidhoo.

I informed them that there were more than a hundred people who were taken there with us, which came as a surprise to them as they had only been told about the MPs. We explained to them what had happened and they took photos of our injuries.

The vice president of the HRCM told us that to be honest they had never seen this kind of police brutality before in the Maldives happening right in front of their eyes.

Later some members of the Police Integrity Commission (PIC) arrived as well.

Around 03.45-04.00 am our lawyers arrived. They said they had to through hell and back to get to Dhoonidhoo. The police had given them excuses saying their system was down and thus making it difficult for them to appoint themselves as our lawyers. The lawyers also informed that they tried to organize petition Habeas Corpus petition to the court, as per usual procedure. However, when they spoke to registrar of the Criminal Court, they informed our lawyers that they cannot open the court at the night time for this purpose. This is complete opposite of what they usually in other cases.

Around 04.30 am we were told by the Police that we can go back home.

I would like to stress that at the time of our arrest we were not informed the reason of our arrest, and even at the time our release, we were not informed the reason for our release. This is completely against our laws.

## **II. SECOND ARREST:**

I was arrested again on 29th May 2012

At approximately at 4:00 pm I took part in a peaceful protest along with hundreds of people against the security forces having ransacked MDP protest camp area, Usfasgandu, and destroyed properties. This political camp area was used by MDP with the permission of Male' City Council.

The protesters and I peacefully kept ourselves more than 500 feet away from the actual Usfasgandu area where the security forces were in control of. However, the police kept charging us with their batons raised. True to their old style, the police targeted politicians particularly MDP Parliamentarians on that day.

In that manner the police snatched me from among the crowd while I was peacefully

exercising my right to protest. I have not committed any wrong-doing. However, the police arrested me on the spot and used foul language towards me as I was dragged along. They used phrases such as “who the f\*\*k is this MDP f\*\*ker?!” to show that they were rather personal. I was then driven in a van to the Maldives Police Services headquarters and from there I was handcuffed from behind and transferred onto a speed boat to the nearby jail facility, Dhoonidhoo. I was handcuffed from behind as I was travelled by sea to the said jail facility at about 5:30 pm. The police did not inform me of their reason for my arrest until around 10:00 pm. They issued a document giving their reason for my arrest only at that time. However, the arrest time stated in the document was 5:30 pm. The reason given for my arrest was disobeying the police and disruption of peace together with the protesters.

I was detained for 24 hours until released by a judge. I was allowed to sleep on a very thin mat placed on a tiled floor until dawn along with 20 more detainees.

Despite the fact that I was not suspected/arrested for any drugs or alcohol related crime, the police demanded a urine sample. They demanded the same from all the others numbering 56 who were arrested at the protest area. And the police threatened if urine sample was denied they would charge all such detainees with a separate offence as well. In fear of the police fabricating evidence against us or we being framed, we did not provide them with urine sample, thus bathroom avoided throughout.

I was brought before a judge at the end of 24 hour detention and was handcuffed from behind even in court. And to my surprise, this time the police told the judge that I was arrested for physically assaulting a woman police officer. However, as mentioned above, the reason for my arrest previously given to me in writing was disobeying the police and disruption of peace together with the protesters.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.



Hon. Imthiyaz Fahmy MP addressing the rally shortly before his arrest.

Hon. Imthiyaz Fahmy MP being arrested by the Maldives Police Service





Hon Imthiyaz Fahmy MP being handcuffed by the Maldivian Police Service

## DETAINEES



Aishath Muna arrested on 19 March 2012

**Aishath Muna**  
**(Report given by herself)**

Name of Detainee: Aishath Muna

Date of Birth: 12 May 1964

Designation: Volunteer worker

Date detained: 19 March 2012

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Service

Condition of Arrest: Near MDP Office just as I was going inside the building. Handcuffed and taken into the police van, then to Police Headquarters

Place detained: Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre

Access to Family: Given the option to contact a relative, but I refused.

Access to Lawyer: 19 March 2012, after I demanded for one

Access to Medical Professional

Known Medical Conditions: Gastric Problems, cholestrol

### Details of Arrest

On 19 March 2012 at around 1100hrs, I was in the MDP Office where outside a peaceful protest was going ahead on the road (SosunMagu), calling for early election and demanding resignation of President Waheed. It was the day of the opening of the parliament for the second time after the first failed attempt on 1 March 2012 this year and President Waheed was to give his presidential speech to the Parliament. There was a large number of protestors on Sosun Magu.

The Police pepper sprayed a girl named Mandhi, and employee of the MDP office, who was outside at the protest. She started to hyperventilate, so I took her to the hospital nearby called ADK. I showed her to a doctor, got her a prescription and brought her back to the MDP office.

Just as I was about to enter the office, two policewomen came and told me to come with them. I said that I had just taken someone to the hospital and brought her back. They refused to listen, and handcuffed my hands behind my back. The handcuffs were very tight and I asked them to loosen them but they did not do so. They then took me into the police van.

I was taken to the Police Headquarters, Shaheed Hussein Adam Building, at around 1140hrs. They removed my handcuffs, but by then my wrists were chaffed because they were so tight. After sometime they handcuffed me and transferred me on a launch to Dhoonidhoo detention Centre, located on an isolated island along with some other women that were arrested.

When I arrived at Dhoonidhoo they first kept me outside and did not remove my handcuffs. They then took my handbag, jewellery and all my belongings and asked me to sign a form stating that I had consented to this. After I signed the form they then told me it was time to take my urine sample. Two policewomen took me to the bathroom and asked me to give the urine sample. They did not explain what they were going to test it for. I said that I would not be able to urinate if they were watching me, but they refused to turn around. I finally gave them the sample, which they took outside. They came back a while later and said the test had turned up negative.

They took me to another room to take my photograph I was then taken to a second room where a police officer that I was being detained for breaking through police barricades at the protest. I denied the charges and asked for a lawyer.

They then took me to a 3rd room where they showed me a police statement they had prepared, and asked me to read it and sign it. I said that I did not have my glasses with me and would not be able to do so. They read the statement out loud for me. It basically said the above, that I was arrested for breaking through the police barricade. I said that I would



not sign, and asked for a lawyer. They then asked if I wanted to contact anyone. I said I wanted to contact a family member, but then I changed my mind and decided not to contact them. They then took me to another room to take a photo again.

After this was over they took me outside and kept me near the trees. I asked if I was going to be put in a cell, and requested whether they could keep me where I was for the time being. Once police officer was nice and told me that I could.

I was taken to another room. They told me they were going to do a body check. They asked me to take off my top and bra, which they inspected. They then asked to take my jeans and underwear, and I did so. They asked to do 3 sit-ups. I did 2 sit-ups and said I could do no more as my knees were acting up. They then took me outside and made me sit on a chair there.

I had not had any lunch or afternoon tea because the food they provided would aggravate my gastric condition. I had dinner to keep my strength up but the portions were very little. Our lawyers came to Dhoonidhoo at 2300hrs and we were allowed to speak with them. At around 0130hrs they came and asked me to go with them. They provided me with a mat and a pillowcase. They had put a toothbrush, toothpaste, plate and mug inside the pillowcase. I complained because they had put these items inside a dirty pillowcase. They then took me to another room and lay down my mat there, to sleep.

At around 0200hrs they came again to do a body check. They took one girl, who was crying and begging not to be taken again. They asked to come with them to do a body check again and I told them they has already done one body check Another women who was there with us named Aniya told them that we had already been checked and they had no authority to do so again. Another policewoman came and said there was no need to do another body check so we were left alone.

We were woken up at around 0630-0700hrs. I was asked to sign the form relating to my urine test but I refused, saying I would not do so without a lawyer present. I was given breakfast and was told to get ready to be transferred to Male'. They took us in threes, and I was with Aniya and another woman. They handcuffed our hands behind our back, with metal handcuffs and took us to Male' on a speedboat.

We arrived in Male'. There was a vehicle waiting to take us to court. We tried to get in but the vehicle was packed with other detainees and stank of pepper spray. We were told that they vehicle would drop off those detainees and come back to pick us up. We were taken to the Police Headquarters while we waited for the vehicle. They took us inside the vehicle and drove to court at breakneck speeds, jostling everyone who was sitting inside at the back. They removed my handcuffs just before I entered the courtroom. I was released soon afterwards.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.

21 March 2012

**Yusra Hussain**

**(Report given by Herself)**

**Audio format**

Name of detainee:	Yusra Hussain
Date of birth:	08 January 1990
Date detained:	19 March 2012
Detaining Authority:	Maldives Police Services
Condition of Arrest:	Near MDP Officee. Beaten on the body and stomach on the C-Section scar, breasts squeezed, sprayed pepper spray, handcuffed and verbally abused
Place detained:	Maldives Police Services
Access to a Lawyer:	Yes
Access to Family:	Two phone calls – one to my brother
Access to Medical Professional:	Yes. Pain killer given because of pain and swollen leg.
Known Medical Conditions:	None

### **Details of the arrest:**

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 I came near MDP Office and I saw Police officers near the VTV (Villa TV building) so I asked them if I could pass by and they said it was fine, I could go. But when I came near MDP office area, the place was cordoned off. So I asked if I could go and they said, No I cannot go. So I stopped and waited near MDP Office. The road near the door was closed so I could not go forward. So I stopped there and then because I knew one of the woman police officers there, I said I know who you are. When I said that they came running towards me. Because I said I know that woman police officer, her name is Rugiya, I know who she is. They were dressed in riot gear and there were four women and were looking at me and speaking about me to each other; and then they came charging at me so I moved a little inside and away. There were lot of civilians where I was. Then I tried to go into the MDP Office. I told the police I need to get inside to get something from the office. The Police told me that I cannot go into the Office. And they charged and grabbed me very tightly. They did not give any warning; they just pointed at me and said "this is her". That was the police officer that I knew called Rugiya. They grabbed me in the upper arm and I said "Don't hurt me please. If you want to handcuff me and I will go willingly with you; please don't hurt me". And the police replied "We will do it; We will do it". And two people (civilians) held my legs; I do not know who there were. One of the civilians there, Fathimath, said to the police, "She (I) has a small baby, Don't take her" . The police responded to her "We will take her and we will kill her". So I begged them, "Please don't kill me, I will go with you, don't hurt me" and they were beating me. There were four female police officers in total and two of them were holding on to me. And one of them grabbed one of my breasts. I cried, "it's hurting me, it's hurting me". The women civilians with me were pulling me from the back to not let the police take me and the police were grabbing my arms and trying to pull me forward. And then I fell down. My top and jeans were pulled away by then, half of my stomach was visible and my bottoms were visible. I was very embarrassed. While I was on the ground, I heard someone say from above, her dress has been pulled away, someone pull her dress down. I saw someone's leg (a civilian) so I grabbed onto her leg while I was down on the ground; and the police then sprayed my mouth and eyes with Pepper Spray. I didn't know what was happening then on. All I know was it was a male police officer who pepper sprayed me. He sprayed me three times. That I know.

When I regained consciousness I was inside the jeep and someone was pressing my chest. So I cried please don't hurt me, I feel claustrophobic, please let me go outside. A policewoman there told me "We will not take you outside, today we will kill you". I was down inside the jeep and they put handcuffs on my hands and feet. I had pains all over me and swellings on my arms and legs. I don't know whether I was hit by the baton or something else. All I know was it was extremely painful and there were swellings all over

me. So I told them, "Don't beat me up. It is not too long ago that I had a baby by Caesarian Section. When I said that the police hit on my stomach where I had my C-Section with their fist. They hit me four times there with their fist. I cried out in pain. I kept saying "don't hurt me' and they told me "Did you have to come here?" So I said same as you I have a constitutional right to walk on these streets. And then they told me "Go and F\*\*K your own mother". So I got very upset and I told her that I could do it with her father. When I said that they started beating me up with their fist again. There were two male police officers telling the female officers, "Kill her. Don't let her go".

Then they took to me to their HQ near the Republic Square. By then my husband got there and told the police that it is feeding time for the baby can they let me go. SO they told me "What feeding. This happened because you let her go to the protest". So I said :You are detaining someone who has not committed any crimes".

Then they took me to Dhoonidhoo Prison. In Dhoonidhoo they did not beat us. But they made me remove my clothes and checked me. They told me to remove my clothes and go into the toilet and brought me a container and told me to give urine sample. Then when I gave the sample back to them they checked it with something and told me "it is positive". SO I said that cannot be. I do not use drugs. So I insisted that they check it again in front of me the second time. Which they did and told me that it was negative.

After that they gave me a pain killer because my leg was swollen.

They brought me back to Male' around 02.30 hours. They kept me in the police station and around 0300 am they sent me home and said I am being put under house arrest and I cannot go out of the house. But they didn't give me any documents to that effect.

That afternoon around 13.40 they took me to the court. And they handcuffed me behind. SO I said it is hurting me can they handcuff me to the front, which the police did. They took me to court but they never took me in front of a judge. They kept me outside the court and took me home and said do not go to any demonstrations. SO I replied, only my husband can order me that.

The police had given me a form saying I broke into the police line and I was trying to inflict grievous bodily harm. I refused to sign it. And when they questioned me Dhoonidhoo I choose to remain silent. The police officers in Dhoonidhoo treated me well.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my own free will.

*Fathimath Rasheeda was arrested on 19th March 2012. She was brought to Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre while I was detained there. She was arrested while trying to save her colleague Yusra (see above). Her clothes were torn by the police. The police bought her a shortsleeved T Shirt at the station.*

*When Fathimath was brought into Dhoonidhoo, her husband was already arrested and there. Within hours her 19 year old daughter was brought in.*

*Reported by: Aishath Aniya*



## **Mariyam Waheedha**

(Report given by Herself)

Name of detainee: Mariyam Waheedha

Date of birth: 11 December 1967

Designation: Director, Waste Management (Resigned on February 18, 2012 due to change of Government)

Date detained: 19 March 2012

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Services

Condition of Arrest: Near Family Court barricade. Beaten, squeezed breasts, sprayed pepper spray, handcuffed verbally abused and dragged in to the center of Henveiru Park

Place detained: Maldives Police Services

Access to a Lawyer: Next day 09/03/2012

Access to Family: No phone call given and no access to family

Access to Medical Professional: No

Known Medical Conditions: Diabetic (use insulin 5 times daily), backbone condition and operated on right shoulder.

## Details of Arrest

### Details of the arrest:

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012, around 1920 Hrs, I went out to meet my husband who was waiting for me at the STELCO area. I happen to be passing by near barricades on the road behind the Family Court. I overheard one Policeman say "This nagoobalhu (dog) has to be arrested".

Within seconds, I was being dragged on the ground through the barricades by two Policewomen by locking their hands into my armpit. While they dragged me, they kept pinching my upper arms and hitting my calves on both legs and sprayed pepper spray through my scarf and into my arm pits inside my dress on to the body. As they dragged me, a Policeman kept lifting my scarf and spraying pepper spray under my scarf near the eye.

After they dragged me for 20 meters, they handcuffed me with a cable tie. And again they dragged me for another 30 meters to the centre of the Henveiru Park. Also the Policewoman on the left side was squeezing both my breasts. They did not stop beating or the verbal abuse; "in between your legs you will find the cum of Anni, taste it and will be very tasty". I was the only civilian at that time at the centre of the Henveiru Park, surrounded by more than 50 Police and MNDF personnel. Many of the Police as well as MNDF were saying over and over again "as the dismantling of the MDP tents very hurting?". I replied "it does hurt as it is our own property".

After spraying pepper spray into a van, then they asked me to get into the van (air tight without any ventilation and without any light). After they put me into the van I requested them not to close the door as I might faint as I had not taken my insulin shots. Then they said "such weak people are behind Anni". Then a Policewoman asked me to drink water from a 500ml life water bottle, only a third of water was there. The water in the bottle was muddy and cloudy. I told them I will not drink it and they said you think that we have put drugs in it.

They put me in the van about 8 pm by the time we reached Police Headquarters it was 9.15 pm. In the van there was a 17 year old boy and myself. The drove the van very fast and hardly slowed down on turns. On arrival at the police station they cut the cable tie. Still I feel the pain on my wrist. The only question they asked me was my address. I vomited twice during the detention. Luckily I saw a police officer I knew may be he let me go after they had detained me at the police station for about an hour. After the incident I have been having nightmares. Sometimes when my husband touches me I feel that he is one of the police officers who abused me. Pain in my arms continues and headache constantly.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.

Mariyam Waheedha  
26 March 2012



**HULHUMALE' HOSPITAL**  
 Male' Health Services Corporation Ltd.  
 Republic of Maldives  
 Tel: 999997, Fax: 999994

HOSPITAL NO: 1026301 AGE: 44 SEX: F  
 NAME: Maryam Waleedra  
 ADDRESS: M. Manthara K. Male'  
 ATOLL / ISLAND: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 20.9.12

so, Physically abused, verbally  
 abused by niece, yesterday  
 evening

Now come to doctor for  
 pain and soreness of body

• Anxious  
 etc. Bruises on arms: w/le  
 • esp. notably on right • vertical  
in clear cut/scratch ca marks • disc  
between pr • purple  
• bruised

As referred to Gynaecologist for  
 further examination  
 and treatment



DOCTOR NAME: h. Prasad

[Signature]  
 SIGNATURE



**Areesha Ali**

(Report given by Herself on AUDIO)

Name of detainee: Areesha Ali

Date of birth: 27 April 1967

Date detained: 19 March 2012

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Service

Condition of Arrest: Pepper sprayed, abused, at Raalhugandu Area, detained

Place detained: Dhoonidhoo

Access to a Lawyer:

Access to Family:

Access to Medical Professional:

Known Medical Conditions:

## Details of Arrest

At 19th march we were standing at Sosun Magu. There were lots of people gathered there. Suddenly policemen came and started hitting to the peoples with theirs rods cruelly. And also they were pepper spraying towards the crowed. Some people from the crowd were beaten up badly and also they were injured. Because of that we slowly move aside and walked towards the postal building. Area. We sat at that road and we were just protesting with peace. As soon the president's speech was over at parliament we got call from those people who were at the Raaalhugandu area. They told me that the police are firing the tents over there. So with the couple of activists we went to that area. When we reach there were lots of police and MNDF men who were untying the tents. We told to the police that not do so, and this is an area given to our party from city council. T

Then the policemen started yelling at us with abusive languages. And they were warning us to leave from that area. But we also didn't give up, I told them that we will not leave from here and we don't have any other place to go. And more over I told them that we have the right to stay here not police. But instead of listening to us they started using cheap and terrible words to us. Then we left from there and went to the back of ADU, Buruzu Magu. There were some policemen wearing with dark blue uniform. We talked to those policemen peacefully. We told them not to harm our activists and our assets. We requested them not to abuse us physically and mentally. That time police were just stand over there without charging to anyone. And some police were sitting inside the park.

Suddenly couple of people came behind the crowed and hit the barricades. I didn't even touch to any of the barricades, and policemen standing there can clearly see that. As the people hit the barricades, policemen came running towards the crowd. And they barged on the crowed. That time all of us were stuck inside the crowed. Police were beating to the people with rods and using abusive languages. I thought that those police have not learned any manner how to treat with people and to respect others. Suddenly two police women came closer to me and hold on the neck of my dress. They pulled my dress. Their intention was to expose me to media over there after making me undress. I tried to make my dress like before and they started saying abusive words. They were saying that they will do whatever they want to do with us. Suddenly they pepper sprayed on my eyes with pressure.

And then they sprayed over my daughter's eyes also. She was just 17 years old. I started crying because I was not been able to breathe properly because of sprays. In front of my daughter they tread very cruelly with me. They were dragging my elder daughter. She was fallen on the ground and they were pulling her top from both sides. She was screaming and saying not to pull her top and not to drag her. And then other policeman hit my younger daughter with shield. My son in law and my younger daughter's boyfriend also were inside the crowed. They were hitting all the people in the crowed.

My daughter was half undressed as they were dragging her on the ground and media was able to see her in that condition. One police tried to pull my jeans also. Policeman hit on my leg with rod many times and my leg is still injured. I was not able to walk properly. In front of my daughters and son in law they abused me lot. Then they pushed us in to the van. And policeman said that they will keep us for 1 month and used abusive words.

They took us to Shaheed Hussain Adam building and from there they took us to Dhoonidhoo. I requested them to leave my younger daughter because she was under age. With us they arrested about 13 women and were taken to Dhoonidhoo. In there they said that they want to check us after removing clothes. After checking they kept me in a small room. I asked for water from the policemen. Then they said that drink the water kept inside the room. But the water available there was contaminated. The next day I was taken to the court as I went inside and yet I couldn't sit properly on the chair, the judge held that to increase my arrest duration to 3 days. Policemen forced me to sign a paper. In that it was written that "reason why I was arrested is because of involving in fights with police and unliking the policemen rows" but I didn't sign on it because all that was a lie.

I told that I wanted to talk my lawyer. While I was kept in Dhoonidhoo, from my family they sent a water case to me. But the police lied to me and said that they didn't receive any water case. All the people arrested with me were complaining about the drinking water because the water available there were not pure enough to drink. And some people were facing health problems because of drinking that water. I want to give punishment to those police who treated with us cruelly and to those who abuse us.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.

Areasha Ali

Date 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**Ibrahim Shaizan**

(Report given by himself)

Name of Victim:	Ibrahim Shaizan
Date of Birth:	29 December 1981
Designation:	MD of Rosen Holdings Pvt. Ltd. Businessman – Security locking/home automation system
Date Incident Occurred:	21 March 2012
Human Rights Violating Authority:	Maldives Police Services
Place Incident occurred:	At victim's home – Narugis Villa

## Details of the Human Rights Violation

On 21 March 2012, at around 9.35pm I was just leaving home to go to Haruge as usual. After a shower when I passed through the main door, I saw my cousin Ali Shah sitting on the joali in a narrow pathway just before the main gate. Both our houses are right next to each other and we both (including our family) share this pathway. We both have different political views: I am an MDP supporter while Ali Shah is a member of the Maldives Police Service and being a policeman he supports the current President Waheed who came to power in a coup d'état. We had been very close relatives until 7 February 2012. However, since then we had different political opinions and we debated on and off. Before this day, on several occasions two brothers (Anil and Shamah) of Ali Shah had threatened my mother saying that they would beat me and kill me because of the confrontations happening between me and Ali Shah. When I saw Ali Shah, I told him to get up from my mother's joali. He replied saying that he will not get up. Again, I told him to get up referring to him as a terrorist. He then got furious and jumped at me and grabbed my MDP badge that I wore on my t shirt. I grabbed both of his hands, but he being built much bigger than me started swinging me from side to side. My mother ran outside when she heard us. She tried to release me from him without any luck. However, she held on to me. All I did was try to hold his hand in self defense to block him. During this whole time his mother and his sister in law had come out to watch but did nothing to stop him. Finally he let go and my mother took me inside the house. With the commotion happening downstairs my sister (Shibana Abdul Sattar), her husband (Hussain Shafee) and my brother (Hassan Aflaam) came downstairs. At this moment the situation seemed diffused and everything seemed normal.

A few minutes later, a group of 7 armed policemen barged into my house and tried to take me into custody. My brother and brother in law removed them from the house saying that there was no court order. Hassan Aflaam and Hussain Shafee continued to talk with the police officers trying to find a peaceful way to take me into questioning. However, claiming that the command center has informed them to remove me, they all charged and came into the house forcefully pushing off my father. At this point my brother in law Ibrahim Asim happened to be in the house and he tried to stop them from attacking me. The police started shouting and they said they wanted to take me for investigation. Meanwhile, my wife, two of my sisters and my mother were all holding on to me as the police were trying to snatch me away from them. I told them not to hurt any of my family members and if they were going to remove any of my family members that were holding me, I requested them to do so by a female police. There were no policewomen at this time. There were only men. Then one of them took a can of pepper spray and threatened my sister to get away from me. Another policeman grabbed my youngest sister's (Hawwa Zaina – 23 years old) trouser and tore it. Then he grabbed her arm pulling and tugging on her t shirt. The noise they were making was so loud that some of the small children sleeping in our house woke up. Amongst them was my 9 month old daughter. At this moment again Hussain Shafee, Mahjoob Abdullah and Hassan Aflaam talked to the police officers again to find a more peaceful way to do this. In response five of the police personal left the house while two stayed back. Then about a minute later the five police officers who left returned with 8

police personnel from the star force in riot gear. This caused more confrontation between them and the people in the house. Then they used another three more pepper spray bottles to threaten us. Again my brother and brother in law stepped in and talked to the officers nicely and negotiated a peaceful way to take me out to the jeep, on the condition that they take me to Galolhu Investigation Unit and that my mother would be taken along with me as this was not an arrest but for investigation. They agreed and I with my mother started walking with the 16 or so police officers surrounding us.

A police jeep was waiting outside the house to take me, but as we approached they tried to pull my mother away from me and tried to put me alone in the jeep, however my mother did not let go and they put my mother and me in the jeep. After I was put in the jeep they tried to arrest my father (Moosa Mohamed Didi) and my sister (Mariyam Neena). There was one policeman in the front seat. My mother and I were sitting behind him and behind us were three other policemen, then they allowed a civilian inside the jeep by the name of Shafu, who I have no affiliation with. While driving, the police and the civilian were all shouting abuse at me in very filthy language. I begged them to stop doing that because my mother was there. Halfway through they said they were going to take me to Atholhuvahi.

When we got to Atholhuvahi, we were left in the open area. Ali Shah was outside at this time. After about 10 minutes of waiting, a tall policeman who was very aggressive at home came and said that my mother cannot be there. So I took her up to the gate, while I was walking back to where I was seated, I saw the whole crowd of policemen that came to my house were there. One of them raised his foot as I walked to the chair and I tripped but I did not fall. Ali Shah then sneered at me saying abusive things. I said if he wanted to beat me he could do it as I am brought under their power now. One of the policemen there then asked me to go to investigation room 1, which was an extremely hot and humid place. I was sweating profusely and feeling dizzy. There were 3 police; 1 woman and 2 men – all Lance

corporal levels. . Once inside they gave me my ID card which they took from me when I entered the investigation room. Then they started accusing me of beating up a policeman and shouted at me in filthy words. Within the two hours I spent their one civilian along with the police who came into my house came into the room and threatened me again.

What seemed like 2 hours later, 2 lawyers named Afeef and Shiaaru came to see me, I was asked to come out from the investigation room to meet with them. Afeef saw that I was not in a good state said that it would be ok and he does not think that they would torture me, but I might have to stay in for the night. When the Lawyers left I was sat in front of the investigation room 2. Once they finished taking Ali Shah's statement I was asked to go to investigation room 2. This room was a bit more pleasant and airy. Lance corporal Naufal then came and took my statement in the presence of lawyer Haseen and Fareed and took pictures of my wounds and bruises. He asked if I wanted to talk to Ali Shah, I said if he wants to speak I have no objection. At around 3.30am I was released.

That night my sister Jeeza Abdul Sattar spoke to the Commissioner of Police Abdulla Riyaz regarding the events that occurred. The next day he had sent two other policemen to my

house to further investigate the case. We came to know that there was no such reported case and no senior personnel was aware of this event. So I assume that I was threatened and taken to police unjustly due to a family rift between me and my cousin. I may have had an argument with Ali Shah, but none of my family members deserve to go through the ordeal they did. I want justice for their callous actions and causing unnecessary pain and humiliation to my family while we were at home.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.

Date: 26th March 2012

Aishath Sana, 19 years old, was pepper sprayed while participating in a protest on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012. While she was washing her face with water the riot police came from behind and hit her on the back.. When she fell down one of the police kicked her with the boot. Sana sustained several injuries to her face.

She works for MDP office and also said that the police in Galolhu Vilu Police Station routinely harass her.





**Aishath Shamha**

(Report given by Herself)

on audio

Name of detainee:	Aishath Shamha
Date of birth:	
Date detained:	19th March 2012
Detaining Authority:	Maldives Police Services
Condition of Arrest:	Verbally and physically abused
Place detained:	Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre
Access to a Lawyer:	No
Access to Family:	No
Access to Medical Professional:	N/A
Known Medical Conditions:	N/A

## Details of Arrest

On 19th March evening I was waiting at the door of my home because my mom wasn't receiving my calls, after waiting for a long time, me and my sister went for a motor cycle ride. While we were crossing Buruzu magu, I heard my mother's voice and I just parked my cycle there. And then went looking for my mom, she was standing just in front of the barricades, it was just about six thirty PM. At that time mother was very angry and we asked her to come home with us. But she refused so we just waited there without saying anything. We were just looking around at what was going on, people there were shouting at the police. At that time, some people who came from behind us and hit the barricades. My mom was trying to put back the barricades where it was before and told police she didn't hit the barricades.

At that time police was sitting at the park nearby. Riot shields were kept on the other side. Suddenly some police men came charging towards the crowd and the crowd got dispersed. One of the police men came and held my mother, at that time my sister fell on the ground, luckily I didn't fall and police men were yelling at the people left behind from the crowd. I asked the police who was holding my mother, not to hurt her and I told them my mother would leave if asked politely. But the police man hit my sister with the shield. Some more police came and dragged us from there.

Policemen were pulling my t shirt from both sides. They were trying to tear off my t shirt but it was very stretchable and they couldn't. Because they were pulling on my t shirt, my stomach was uncovered and people were taking pictures. I could hear my sister's crying because police were beating her. My husband and my sister's boyfriend also were there. They were also asking the police not to abuse her physically and if you want to take her peacefully. I tried to protect my sister from those police. Other policemen used pepper spray on my mother's eyes and they started dragging me towards the park. There were some police women too. My mother and sister fell on the ground and police were beating them. I shouted at the police many times and asked not hurt them. I told the police clearly that I and my sister came here to take our mother home, not to protest and also I told them that my sister is under age, she's just 17 years old. But instead of listening to me, policemen were threatening us using abusive words to me and said that they will not let us go from here. They call me dog, scoundrel, rascal and so many cheap words.

And then a police man over to me and said that I am a dog and I look like a gay. I was fell I was really abused but he did not stop. After a while another man standing there with dark blue uniform said that, they will take me into the black van, and after making me undressed they will take my naked pictures of me. They did something to my hand, it was paining a lot and I couldn't move my body at all. I repeatedly requested them not to harm us and to bring my younger sister near to me without dragging her. But no one bothered.

They beat my sister's boyfriend very badly. A Policeman paced on his eyes with the ankle shoe. He screamed loudly because of the pain and he was not able to see anything. Repeatedly, they held his head and were hitting his head on the jeep. I asked about my

sister from and other police men from behind started yelling abusive words at me. He was warning me to keep quiet.

Meanwhile a policemen friend of mine came there and took me from there. He advised me not to talk, and if I talk things would be worse than before. I told him to bring my mom and sister to me. After few minutes a policemen brought my mom and sister and they pushed us into a van. My mother couldn't even walk properly; her leg was injured because police beat on her leg badly. Still without mercy they brought her dragging. My mum vomited because police used pepper spray into her eyes and mouth forcefully.

Then they took us to Police Head Quarters in the van. After some time they took us to Dhoonidhoo Island. When we were in Dhoonidhoo, they were very cruel. After taken us to the island they said that they want to check everyone individually. I was kept in a small room. One of the policeman came inside the room to check me. Again another one entered. They said me to remove my clothes. After entering they didn't even close the door. I told that I won't remove my clothes until they close the door. Then they closed the door. And again other two police men tried to come inside. But I told them that I will not let all of to check me and I will not remove my clothes in front of all. So only two men stayed and others didn't enter the room.

I removed all my clothes except my underwear and gave them to those policemen. And then they asked me to sit. So I did like that 3 times. After they strip searched me they gave back my clothes. Similarly they strip searched all women arrested. They also tried to check some women twice. Their intention was not to just strip but to abuse us make us naked in front of them for their pleasure. I feel so shamed for these abusive acts by the Police. We have no respect for the Police anymore. They told me to stay in that room. There was no any ventilation and was really hot inside. Because of that I was unable to breathe properly and was having head bad headache too. They kept me inside for long time, so I asked from a policeman why it's taking so long to release me. In reply they said that they were waiting for CIO to come.

While I was sitting inside, every policeman who crossed in front of the door were using abusive words at me. Some of them said that I am a gay and some says I look like a man and so on. There was another cell just next where I was kept. In that cell there was a young girl kept with handcuff to backside. And her hand was swollen she was brought there in the previous night. They have kept her all that time with handcuffed. She was shivering because of the pain and agony. She was requesting to remove her handcuffs or at least to change handcuffs to front but no one cared.

After sometime they took me to downstairs to take me to Male'. There were about 11 policemen as I arrived in Male'. They asked me to get into the van, but I refused. They asked me what the problem was. I told them that while I was kept in male' police men were threatened me, after taking me inside the van they will make me undress and will take naked pictures of me. Then they took me back to the room and said that they will not release me until a police woman comes. I requested from them to release me soon because that day my child was not well. Then About 12pm they released me and was under

house arrest.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.

Aishath Shamha

25 March 2012



**Ahmed Iyaz Saleem**  
(Report given by himself)

Name of Detainee: Ahmed Iyaz Saleem

Date of Birth: 11 June 1988

Designation: N/A

Date detained: 19 March

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Service

Condition of Arrest: On Sosun Magu while peacefully protesting. Beaten, handcuffed, dragged into the police van sprayed. However I was not informed of any reason why they arrested me.

Place detained: Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre

Access to Family:

Access to Lawyer:

Access to Medical Professional

Known Medical Conditions:

Details of the arrest:

I joined the women protesters near the Social Centre and walked with them as protection in case any of the women protesters becomes victim to police brutality. The peaceful walk was stopped by riot police on Sosun Magu. I was just behind the police barricade on the road when the riot police tried to break up the protest. I witnessed a woman being beaten by Police and came to the front to keep the women from harm.

Together with other protesters, we held the front line by holding hands and kept the rest of the protestors behind us. While we stood there I was suddenly firmly held on the shoulder from behind by a police officer. Even after four days you can still see the bruise on my shoulder where the police held me. I was the first person they tried to arrest, and they did not follow the procedures for an arrest, they tried to take me in by force. I was not informed why I was being detained or where I was being taken.

I told the officer that they don't have to use force and that I would go peacefully with them if they wished to do so. I was ushered to Abadhahfehi Magu, where there was no press access, (no cameras) and then they started beating me and pushing me around. They then dragged me into a police van. They handcuffed me with cable ties, and pepper sprayed my eyes, my nose and into my mouth and other places. I was kept in the van for awhile, I heard shouting from outside, presumably a confrontation with protesters and riot police.

From there I was taken to Dhoonidhoo detention centre, where I was given the right to a lawyer and the right to remain silent. There I was not beaten nor harmed by the officers at the detention centre. I was asked to take a urine test, and I complied. Later I was informed by an officer that I tested negative for drugs. However it was announced by Television Maldives (State-owned television channel) that all detainees were tested positive for drug abuse, detainees vocally expressed their disapproval of the false statement given by the state media.

Then I was taken to court to extend the duration of the detention. The police lawyer was given the chance to speak at the hearing, while I was not allowed to speak at all. The judge ruled to extend 3 days of detention period within a few minutes, even when Police did not provide any evidence that I was committing a crime. The police requested for further extension as I had exercised my right to remain silent. I was detained for 3 days during which time I was not asked to give a statement nor given any assistance by any police officers including the investigating officer. I was released yesterday after a court ruled that there was no evidence presented against me by the Police.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my free will.



Signature:

Date:

**Ahmed Mazin Naeem  
(Report given by himself)**

Name of Detainee:	Ahmed Mazin Naeem
Date of Birth:	06 March 1974
Designation:	Self Employed
Date detained:	12 February 2012 (8.40 pm)
Detaining Authority:	Maldives Police Service
Condition of Arrest:	Pepper Sprayed and cable tied; no condition of arrest given
Place detained:	Dhoonidhoo Detention Centre
Access to Family:	Yes
Access to Lawyer:	
Access to Medical Professional:	Yes
Known Medical Conditions:	Glaucoma



### Details of Incident

#### Details of arrest:

I went near the Parliament that night (February 12, 2012) when I hear that people were gathering there. The Star Force (Special Operations, Maldives Police Service) had created barricades, and we were leaning against their shields. Soon after, the security personnel charged at us. The whole crowd started running but I remained in my position. I was standing alone, when I turned around to look behind me and got pepper-sprayed about an inch away from my eyes. It went up my nose as well. Immediately my eyes and nose started watering. I couldn't see anything. Then a policeman grabbed my hands, cuffed me using a cable-tie and put me into the police vehicle. They then put me on the speedboat, removed my cuffs and took me to Dhoonidhoo. Three others were with me; they removed all our handcuffs and gave us lifejackets.

When I arrived in Dhoonidhoo, I was given a form and was instructed to fill it out and sign it. When I refused to sign it, they said there was no problem with that. I was then put in a jail cell after being given a mat, pillow, toothbrush and toothpaste. However, the conditions inside did not allow us to pray, as it was too dirty.

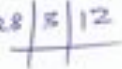
The next evening, two people from the Red Cross arrived. This was the only time I was let out from the cell. When they asked what the conditions were inside the cell, I related to them how the place was rat-infested, and that they would run over our bodies. The drinking water tap is located right next to the toilet seat. So I don't know what kind of condition the drinking water is.

I think I was allowed access to a doctor after my family's requests. This was because I had not requested for any medication or access to a doctor myself. They then took me to see a doctor after cuffing my hands with metal cuffs. After my doctors visit, they gave me my medicine an hour before my release.

Signature:



Date: 28/2/12



**Abdulla Ahmed Waseem  
(Report given by himself)**

Date of Birth:	24 April 1988
Designation:	
Date detained:	19 March 2012
Human Rights Violating Authority:	Maldives Police Service
Condition of Arrest:	Road in front of Majeediyya School gate (Abdhah Fehi Magu)
Place detained:	N/A
Access to Family:	N/A
Access to Lawyer:	N/A
Access to Medical Professional:	Yes went to hospital on my own
Known Medical Conditions:	N/A

### Details of Incident

#### Details of Human Rights Violation:

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012, we made our way towards the People's Majlis from Insaaf Square. We reached Abadhahfehi Magu, where the security forces had cordoned off in front of Majeedhiyya School gate. Even then there were people protesting against Waheed's regime, asking the MNDF personnel to step back. There were MNDF personnel wearing black and green uniforms there. I tried to go past the barricade.

As the security forces tried to push us back, my fingers got stuck in between their shields. Shortly after that, without any prior warning, they fired pepper spray and threw their tear gas canister at the area where I stood. I do not think there would have been even 5 feet in between myself and the security personnel who fired the tear gas canister. The tear gas canister hit me on the left side of my head. As soon as it hit I lost consciousness. When I regained consciousness I realized that the left side of my head, my left arm and parts of my hair had burns, and I was bleeding profusely.

I hurried to ADK Hospital, I could barely stand up straight and I had not fully realized the extent of the injuries I sustained. I tried to shout for assistance but I couldn't. I do not understand how a tear gas canister should be aimed at my head, or used in a way that would harm civilians who were practicing peaceful assembly. I do not know how I would treat my injuries had the tear gas canister hit my eye.

Signature:



Date:

28 march 2012

**Mohamed Saeed**  
**(Report taken by Third Party)**

Name of Detainee: Mohamed Saeed

Date of Birth: 19 September 1968

Designation: Business

Date detained: 09 February 2012

Detaining Authority: Maldives Police Service

Condition of Arrest: Near his shop in Hithadhoo, Addu City. Beaten with baton, handcuffed, dragged into the police van made to kneel down and pepper sprayed

Place detained: Gan Police station

Access to Family:

Access to Lawyer: 10 February 2012

Access to Medical Professional: 12 February 2012 but prescribed medicine withheld

Known Medical Conditions: Glaucoma

## Details of Arrest and Detention

### Details of the arrest and detention

On the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Mohamed Saeed was at his shop when 2 Police Officers (blue coloured uniform) and 2 MNDF personnel (green coloured uniform) came to arrest him. He was dragged out of the shop holding the collar of his shirt, handcuffed and shoved inside the security forces truck where he was then made to kneel down. He was then pepper sprayed in the eye (note but one of the MNDF personnel whom he knew tried to cover his eyes) and was repeatedly beaten on his back with the baton. He was then tasered where he had marks on his back.

Mohamed Saeed stated that he was not informed of the reason for his arrest. During the ride, statements were made to him by the security forces personnel to the effect that, "MDP would be wiped out of this country, so would the colour yellow". As he was so traumatised, he was unable to tell the exact number of security forces personnel in the truck – but guesstimate would be 3 policeman and 1 MNDF personnel in the back with 1 policeman driving the vehicle.

Mohamed Saeed stated that he had no idea what was going on when he was being carried out of the truck. The police took him near the hut inside the Gan Police Station and asked him to kneel down where he was pepper sprayed again. The entire Gan Police Station was burnt down. They then put him into the cell which had no mattress. During this time he could hear the screams (cries such as "please don't hit me") from the people the police were torturing. The police then came into his cell and threatened to cut off his manhood and make him a woman.

Around 8pm he was brought outside and fed spaghetti with 11-12 other people. People's names were eventually called out and they were taken on MNDF speedboat to another island in the atoll, Hulhumeedhoo. They were handcuffed and around 6 police officers guarded them on the speedboat. Police vehicles were waiting for them when they arrived and they were taken to the Hulhumeedhoo Police Station. There, they were forced to kneel down for over an hour where the police officers would come every now and again to verbally abuse them.

After an hour or so, Mohamed Saeed said that he was picked out of everyone and asked to follow the police officers with a baton shoved against his back. He was then asked to stand on a burnt safe and made to say, "I am the biggest thief in Addu City" – if not he was threatened to be beaten up. Mohamed Saeed was in tears when he made this statement.

Mohamed Saeed and the rest of the detainees were then taken to the Hulhumeedhoo Court where they were made to kneel down again. He stated that at this point it was becoming really difficult to kneel down due to the pain in his knee. They requested to be able to sit down and after 15 minutes they were allowed to do so.

They were then taken inside the court room, 4 people at a time and made to sit in front of a plastic chair that had a telephone on it. There was no judge present. The phone was put on loud speaker where an unknown person extended their detention period for 15 days. The reason given for Mohamed Saeed's arrest and detention was being a leader in organizing the protests that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Addu City. They were then taken back to Gan Police Station on the speedboat.

Next morning (10 February 2012), he requested to see a doctor because of the pain in his knee. During his ride to the hospital, (with two others) his hands were cuffed behind his back so tight he couldn't even feel his palms. And because his knee was paining, he was struggling to sit properly. He was taken to Hithadhoo Regional Hospital and after being taken inside, the police officer stated there was no appointment for Mohamed Saeed today and was immediately taken back outside again.

The police officers then took him for a joy ride (handcuffed as before) and ensured that that they took bumpy roads which would make it painful for them to sit with their hands cuffed behind their backs. Finally, they took them to the Hithadhoo Police Station which was burnt down and drove into the courtyard and was taken to the sunniest spot. The windows of the jeep were rolled up and they were made to sit inside for over an hour in the unbearable heat (still handcuffed). They were so thirsty at this point it was unbearable.

After an hour, they were finally let out and brought to the shade where they were made to sit on plastic chairs facing their backs to each other. They cried in the name of God to give them some water, and only when they did so in the name of God were they given any water. But the policemen then started taunting them with statements such as, "look what we can do to you in your City" and "we can bring your wife and children and set fire to them". They then started hammering iron rods in between our toes to instill fear in us. They also put coal (from the burnt police station) on their heads using wooden planks.

No one wanted to go to the doctors after that. On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 the police officers called out his name and half way out he asked where he was being taken. When he was told he was being taken to the doctors, he refused to go. The police officers then said in that case Mohamed Saeed would have to sign a piece of paper declaring that he refused to seek medical attention and even if he dies the police would not be held responsible. On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2012, a friendly police officer took him to the Maradhoo-Feydhoo Hospital where tests were done for his knees. And although medication was prescribed, he never received it.

Until 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, the day President Nasheed visited Addu City, he did not see the outside world. As soon as the Police became aware that President Nasheed was coming, all detainees were asked to come outside immediately and were taken to the MNDF area in Gan. There, they were put into dog kennels the size of 6 feet by 6 (5-6 people in each kennel).

It must be noted that as the toilets of the cells were clogged, the detainees upon request to use toilet facilities outside although given access were handcuffed to the front.

Mohamed Saeed was released on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 on the following conditions (for duration of one month and 15 days):

- Not to lead any terrorism related activities and not to engage in any activity that may harm the community;
- To be present at the Police Station or Courthouse upon request; and
- Must obtain court order prior to leaving the atoll.

Failure to do so would result in Mohamed Saeed being taken into custody.

I declare that this statement was given to me by Mohamed Saeed without any duress and at his free will.



Maryam Manal Shihab  
21 March 2012





**Aishath Aniya**  
**(Report given by Herself)**

Name of detainee:	Aishath Aniya
Date of birth:	1965
Designation:	
Date arrested:	19 March 2012
Location of arrest:	Near Sosun Magu
Detaining Authority:	Maldives Police Service
Place of Detention:	Dhoonidhoo Prison
Reason for Arrest:	“Being suspected of arriving at areas that the police had blocked and to have attempted to forcibly cross the police lines; to have attacked and injured the police using sharp instruments, pavement stones and various other items; to have attempted to destroy the community’s safety and security; to have damaged properties, homes and other buildings of ordinary citizens and to prevent the police from carrying out their duties.”
Condition of Arrest:	Hand cuffed
Access to a Lawyer:	Yes
Access to Family:	Yes
Access to Medical	N/a
Known Medical Conditions:	

## Details of Arrest

On 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 supporters of democracy and MDP protested against Dr. Waheed's entrance to our parliament's chamber to deliver his Presidential address. The Maldives defense forces and the police blocked the entire area outside the parliament house and beyond.

Four groups of protestors started from Lonuziyaaraiy kolhu taking different routes towards the parliament building. As we passed Sosun Magu we saw police barricades across the end of it. Barricades were put across Sosun Magu at Roashanee Magu turn and in Medhuziyaaraiy Magu at Sosun Magu turn. Riot police and military lined up behind all barricades.

Our group moved up Ameer Ahmed Magu and stopped at the police barricades put at H.Meerubahuruge east corner. Riot police and military with shields lined behind the barricades. Our group sat down on the paved road under the hot sun. I was behind the protestors in the vehicle with the sound system. I kept addressing the police and MNDF that we were not there to confront police and appealed to them not to attack us and create violence but to join us. I told them we are exercising our rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association and we did not want Dr. Waheed in our Majilis chambers.

At around 11.30, behind me, a group of people stampeded into the road from Sosun Magu chased by riot police and military with batons. I got down from the vehicle and stood by its side speaking through the mike. I kept repeatedly appealing to the police and military not to attack our people and create violence.

By 12.13pm, police barricades were put behind me at the traffic light near Sosun Magu. I saw about 50 riot police and military gather in a crowd and listen to one of them giving orders. The next moment they all ran at us with batons raised. I saw two military officers fall down as they charged at us. Through the sound system I repeatedly went on appealing to them not to beat us. They ran past me and I remember Brandy (Ibrahim Didi) making a circle around me with his arms and the pickup and protecting me. Next moment one of the police opened the driver's door and snatched the mike from me. Soon I felt a group of police hold me firmly on either side and behind me. I had about 6 riot police behind holding me with two riot police women holding each of my outstretched arms. Behind me at my ear I heard a man's voice verbally abuse me and I turned back to see a riot policeman with a baton turn away and walk away. I kept telling the policewomen to remove their hands off me and that I will go with them voluntarily. After a short distance they stopped me and put my arms behind and handcuffed me with a plastic clip. One of them put a piece of masking tape around my right upper arm and wrote number 23 on it while another one asked my name, address and ID number. I asked them what I had done for them to arrest me. They said I will be told when I am "there". I gave them the information while someone wrote down. Then they walked me round the block to a vehicle in the next road – Medhuziyaaraiy Magu. I saw nearly 3 vehicles and lots of police and military officials there. Some were relaxing in the shade.

They walked me past the main gate of Majeediyya School in Medhuziyaaray Magu and put me into a police van through its back door. I saw 6 of our men handcuffed in there. Two other men were soon brought in. Some of us were very tightly cuffed and asked the police to loosen them but they ignored. I saw them come with another detainee and put him harshly on our van while they handcuffed him. I kept telling the police not to be rough and hurt any of us.

We were taken to the police station in Hussein Adam Building. There were about 15 of us in the front lobby including one of our women detainees who was crying unstopably. A soundless TV with a pink screen showed breaking news with pictures of Dr. Waheed delivering his speech while the MPs protested inside. Soon we were taken outside and put into a police vessel. They asked me to get into the boat and I refused saying it is against the law to transfer people by sea with their hands cuffed. Another man at a distance heard me and came and ordered I get into the boat. I insisted and he said they will remove it once I got in. On the boat, they uncuffed each of us one by one, put a life jacket over our heads and then handcuffed us again. Someone's phone rang and he started to speak into it. A policeman on the jetty yelled at us not to use our phones.

The speed boat took less than 5 minutes to reach Dhoonidhoo. As I got into Dhoonidhoo I saw a group of people gathered under a tree at the jetty. Ahead I saw about 20 of our men sitting on plastic chairs under a tree to the right of a concrete tent while two of our ladies sat to the left. All were handcuffed. I was taken to where our ladies were and asked to sit on a chair.

After a moment I walked across the tent to where our men were and began asking them their names and where they were arrested and whether anyone was physically hurt. I also began telling them to pass the message not to give any information other than their names, address and IDs and ask for a lawyer and not to sign any statements. Soon a policeman ordered me to go back to the ladies area. I said I was checking for injuries. He called another of his seniors who came and ordered me back. I said the men were our people and I needed to see whether any of them were injured. He ordered me back saying it was their rule to keep men and women separated. I went back to my chair.

A group of police including the "senior" came and began asking questions. They asked whether any of us had injuries and wished to see the doctor. They checked our names, IDs and our occupation. We told them we needed to call home and tell them we were in Dhoonidhoo.

We were handcuffed for nearly two and a half hours. Within that time, we got the police to loosen the handcuffs around one of the women detainees as her wrist kept swelling up. Our phones kept ringing and police said we could not use the phone.

One by one was called to the police at the desks. When all the men were done, they began calling each of us one by one. About two hours since we were brought in, I was brought to

the desk. They asked me to give all my belongings with me. I was asked to count the cash I had and they put the money and my two phones in two separate envelopes. They asked me what I had in my handbag. I told them what I had. They took my handbag. I asked whether I could keep the two packets of facial tissues I had, sanitary napkins and the bottle of lens spray I used to clean my glasses. They refused to allow the spray but allowed the piece of cloth I used to clean my glasses and the sanitary napkins. I was brought back to the chair.

A while later, a senior policeman came with two other policemen and asked us whether any of us needed to see the doctor. We said we needed to call our family to let them know we were in Dhoonidhoo. He ordered the policemen around to arrange us to call our families and went away.

An hour later two policewomen came and one of them took us one by one to make our phone calls. I asked whether we could use our phones to call home in their presence. She said no and took us to the front lobby in the ground floor of the blue building and asked me for a number. I gave my son's and she dialed it on a mobile phone and when my son came online she gave it to me. I told my son that I was in Dhoonidhoo and everything was fine and not to worry and where his suitcase and money were since he was expected to leave abroad shortly for studies. Before 30 seconds into my conversation with my son, the policewoman standing next to me went on ordering me to stop.

When I was brought back under the tree I noticed the senior I spoke to earlier with two other policemen standing around the women detainee group. He asked whether I was given enough time to speak on the phone. I immediately said I was given less than 30 seconds. He ordered us to be given more time and checked whether each of us had called our family. He ordered the policemen around to allow those of us who had not yet had the chance to have it. He waited and chatted with us for nearly 15 minutes before he went away.

Another hour later one by one, we were taken into a room where pictures – front, left, right, back of us were taken. After that we were taken to another room where more pictures of us front, both sideways, back were taken in front of a backdrop showing measures in inches. A detainee outside the room told me that his urine was tested for narcotics and they found it was positive even though he never drank or smoked. I told him to pass the message to everybody not to lose sight of the urine sample once it was given and tested.

Almost every hour there was a boat from Male with more detainees, all were hand cuffed.

Soon lunch packets were distributed with plastic glasses of juice. It had rice and potato curry. Some of us ate. Each time we asked to be taken to a toilet for the first time, two policewomen took us one by one. One of us who came from the toilet told me the police demanded urine sample from her and tested them for narcotics and made her undress.

Almost an hour later I asked a policewoman that I needed to go to the toilet. Two

policewomen led me to the building where I was taken to make the phone call. They took me past two rooms that looked like it was used by medical officers and into a short corridor. One of them went inside a third room on my right and came out with a packet of cups. Next, they got me into a room on my left. The room was almost 30 feet long and 15 ft wide and had a tiled floor. There was a screen and two beds – one was a hospital bed and the other one was wooden. They led me into an adjoining smaller room with a wash basin and a mirror at the far end. It had two rooms on either side with toilet and shower.

I was asked to go into the room on my left. They gave me the plastic cup and asked me for a urine sample. They kept the door open and stood at it less than 3 feet away from me while I was facing them on the toilet seat. I told them I was having my periods hoping they would give me some privacy but they did not move from the doorway or closed them. It took me more than 15 minutes before I could finish my task with an audience. Within that time they said I could come back later when I am ready. I told them I need to pass urine and I am in great difficulty with them around. When I finally gave them the sample they put a kind of tape over it. I asked the police not to take the sample away from my sight before they tested and I was watchful they did not. They waited at the door until I came out and walked me out to the big room. After sometime they lifted the cup up and said “It’s negative”.

Next they ushered me behind the open door of the room and asked me to take off my T shirt. Next they asked me to take off my bra. They took it and checked it. They asked me to remove my jeans, socks and shoes. They checked one by one, including the pockets and hems of my jeans. Then they asked me to take off my underwear and squat three times. With that I gave them a surprised look and said “No”

When I was taken back outside under the tree I checked whether each of us went through the procedure I went through. Some of them wouldn’t give much detail than to say they took urine samples and did body checks. Some told me that they were asked to squat naked. It was later after we were released that I got details from some of us on how the police did “body checks”. I came to know that the police physically checked underneath women’s breasts and even touched the bare genitalia while they were squatting naked.

While we were sitting there, I saw batch after batch of us brought in as detainees. The men were taken to their area while the women joined in our area and both were kept at a distance away from each other. New comers were also kept a distance at first but later were made to join the rest. Some came with swellings, limps and injuries. Some were brought in with their clothes torn and some wearing a single shoe or without them. I noticed one of the detainees sleeping on a cement platform behind me for nearly 3 hours. He was shot with a rubber bullet and beaten badly. He woke up around dusk and told me that he has been hit on his head and had bumps and has a bad headache. I saw a young man who was lying next to him put into a wheel chair and taken to the doctor. We were not allowed to move and talk with each other around except in the space each group was given.

In the afternoon, tea was brought to us under the tree. The food was very bad and I noticed most of us didn’t eat. When we asked for water, we were given small mineral

water bottles.

Lunch came and we sat and ate in semi darkness. Around 9.30pm a team of three of our lawyers arrived. One of them came to us while the other two went to the detained men. According to my lawyer, she was informed of my arrest by my family around 2.00 pm but when she inquired with the police my name did not appear in the police database in their detained list, as late as just before she left Male to Dhoonidhoo. I told her I was arrested around 12.15pm.

Police came to us and asked whether everyone has been taken to the "IO". We were not told who the IO is but I supposed it means Investigation Officer. Few of us, including me said we have not been taken.

By 11.30pm a total of 101 protestors were brought in. Among us were 12 women, one female minor and two male minors. The last one was a female minor who was a daughter of one of the detainees. She was held in the police station in Male and persuaded to give a statement on which she signed before she was brought to Dhoonidhoo. A young man was duped to sign his statement without the presence of his lawyer. None of us were told our rights and the charges by the police when they brought us under their custody. Among those arrested were a mother and her two daughters and a couple and their 19 year old daughter.

I was escorted to the "IO" upstairs the blue building to the first floor. The clock on the wall said 11.40. Some of the detainees were sitting in the waiting area. Police sat at desks behind the partition dividing us from them. I saw some of our detainees with the police while the statement of arrest was given. In the waiting area I told every one of us not to give any information beyond name address and ID number and to demand a lawyer and not to sign anything.

Around 12.15, I heard someone call my name and I looked up behind me to the policeman speaking to me over the partition. He asked me for my name address and ID. Then he asked me whether I had a number on me. I said yes, it was 23. He asked me when I was arrested. I thought for a while and said it was before the noon prayer call. He said whether I was arrested near Dharumavantha School. I said I want a lawyer. He asked me to come over to the desk. I was given a piece of paper. I began to read it while the policeman waited standing over me. After a while he pointed to the paper where it said I have my rights to remain silent and a lawyer. I said why he was asking me questions before he told me so. He said he didn't ask any questions related to the investigation. I said the time and place of my arrest is directly related to the investigation and it is against law not to tell my rights before I was asked questions.

When I saw what was written as "Reason for arrest / status" on the paper I broke out laughing. It said:

"In the event where a great number of supporters of the Maldivian Democratic Party gathered to protest to prevent the President of Maldives from delivering the Presidential Address at the session to convene the Majilis on 19 March, 2012, being suspected of

arriving at areas that the police had blocked and to have attempted to forcibly cross the police lines; to have attacked and injured the police using sharp instruments, pavement stones and various other items; to have attempted to destroy the community's safety and security; to have damaged properties, homes and other buildings of ordinary citizens and to prevent the police from carrying out their duties."

I told the policeman I will not sign the paper and I need a lawyer. He asked who my lawyer is. I gave a name. He asked for my lawyer's number. I said I don't remember the number and that it is in my phone which they have taken. I gave my husband's number and asked the policeman to call him to get my lawyers number.

I was led out of the room and saw more detainees in the waiting area. They took me downstairs under a tree where more detainees whose been to the IO remained.

Around 1.30am, all 12 of us and the female minor were given mat and a pillow. Inside the pillow case was a folded towel, a plastic plate and mug, a small tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush. I told them why they have put all of the stuff inside the pillow case and it is unhygienic. They said to make it easy for us to carry them. We were all taken to the big room which had the adjoining toilets where we were taken earlier. The floor was mopped and still not dry when we went in. Everything inside the room was moved into a corner. While some of us all prepared ourselves to sleep the more tired ones were already lying down. We were lucky that the cells were overcrowded – the only reason why we were not moved to a cell. One of the two bathrooms had a broken lock.

The door of the room was open with 3 policewomen at it. Suddenly they called the minor for a body checkup. As she was already lying down to sleep she was very reluctant to get up and the policewoman in a very angry tone told her to come out. Her mother got upset about her body checkup and went out and stood looking into the opposite room where it was done. The next one was called and I heard they say "One at a time, come out". I got up and came out of the room. There were 3 of them and I told them that we have already been "body checked". They said it is their procedure to do "body check" before we were put into a cell. I said they have already done body checking and we have been under their surveillance since then. They said it is always their procedure to do body check before getting us into a cell. I said procedures and made so call their seniors and tell the person that we have already done the body checking and none of us want to display our naked bodies in front of the police again. The raise in my voice brought the police in other rooms. The three policewomen said some of us are unchecked and they have mixed up those checked and unchecked therefore they need to do a body checkup again. I said police has been constantly with us wherever we went after the body checkup and if they have mixed up the two then it is their problem and we are not willing to undress in front of them again. Then they asked those among us who have not been checked before to come for the body checkup and one of us went. Again I heard them insist that since we have people among us who are unchecked they need to do the checking again. I said no. They finally backed down and let us sleep. Fifteen minutes later they came again and asked for one of us who had a baby of one and a half months to come out to go to Male. She earlier requested to be taken to Male as her son could not be consoled by anyone else.

I noticed one of us was earlier put into a cell when she asked for a place to do her prayers was sitting on her mat leaning against the wall. I remember waking up sometime during the night and seeing her sitting too. She was quite alarmed by her experience in the cell which she told us next morning (It will be attached later). The door of our room was locked from outside.

Around 7.30 in the morning I heard the door of our room open and a policewoman's voice saying to get ready breakfast is on the way. One by one, all of us got up and went into the bathroom. Soon a wheelbarrow driven by two men came with buckets of food. There was roshi, mashuni, boiled egg and black tea.

Around two hours later, we heard the door unlock and I heard a policewoman say that we will be taken to Male and for all of us to get ready. Another an hour and a half later, the door was unlocked and there I heard three of our names called including myself. We went out. Outside, we saw some policemen and one of them reminded to the policewoman to handcuff us. Soon metal handcuffs were put on our hands behind. One of us three women were handcuffed from behind as she was slightly overweight and had difficulty putting her hands together from behind. I saw some of the male detainees put in a cage and one of them loudly sang a song while the others cheered.

The three of us women and about 7 men were put into a speed boat. They uncuffed our hands and put the lifejacket over our head and handcuffed us in the front. When we arrived in Male' they removed our jackets and handcuffed us from behind. A van with its rear door open was waiting. I smelled pepper spray and saw there were about six of our men in. We were taken into the lobby of the police station and asked to sit. The clock on the wall said 11.30. Soon we were taken out into a waiting van with its rear door open. We climbed into it with our hands cuffed behind. The van smelled strongly of pepper spray. We were driven very fast behind the local market into the justice building. We heard the siren of our van as we drew close to the building.

One by one, we were asked to step out and were taken to the Criminal Court on second floor. The clock on the wall said 11.45. While I sat at the back row of the lobby I noticed that the male detainees were kept in a room closest to me. I saw five of our lawyers coming and going in and out of the rooms.

While I waiting watching I noticed only 2 people were released while for all others 3 or 5 was announced. I was certain the numbers mean extension of detention. Most of those who were given extensions had a very depressed look.

I was aware that the handcuff was biting into my right hand wrist and my shoulders were becoming painful. I asked one of the policemen whether they could handcuff me in the front. He looked at his senior who with a slight tip of his head said no.

My lawyer came and spoke to me. He said that the prosecuting lawyers have still not got my details from the police station and that is why I am not called in. I told him that I was



arrested at 12.14 and it's been past 24 hours. He went and talked to someone behind the counter and came back. He said "they said their responsibility is to bring you to the court before 24 hours and they have done it". My lawyer said that "they are waiting to get your bayan (case) from the police station and they will call me in once they receive it."

After a while I called one of the policemen and asked for some water. He filled a plastic glass from the water filter and came and touched it to my mouth. I drank. After I finished I asked him the name of his senior. He asked me why I need to know. I said because his name is not there I needed to know. He ignored and went back. I noticed he had his name removed too.

Fifteen minutes later I asked one of the policeman to call my lawyer. He opened a door the second door and my lawyer came out. I told my lawyer whether he can get me handcuffed from the front as I am someone with problem at the back of my neck and I am finding it painful. My lawyer went and spoke to the police and came back. He said the police said if they change my handcuff to the front they have to do it for everyone else too.

Around 1.10 pm my name was called. The judge asked the prosecution to read the charge. One of them stood up and read out. It noticed he was reading the "reason for arrest" in the paper given to me previous night in Dhoonidhoo. When he finished the judge announced "Release Aniya". I was quickly led out of the room.

I declare that this statement is given without any duress and at my own free will.



Aishath Aniya being arrested by the Maldives Police Service

## Aishath Jennifer

(Report given by Herself)

Name of detainee: Aishath Jennifer

Date of birth: 05th – February -1976

Designation: Manager / Commercial Department  
Island Aviation Services Limited / Maldives

Date detained: 02nd June 2012

Time abducted: Approximate time 01:45 hrs

Location abducted: Male' City New Cemetery while attending a funeral

Detaining Authority: Un-identified group of 30 people without any name Tags  
and or any Court Order with Maldives Police  
Service uniform.

.  
Detaining Authority: Taken to Maldives Police Service Building – Male' City.

Reason for Arrest: Alleged practicing Black Magic and Witchcraft / Sorcery.

Condition of Arrest: Hand cuffed behind

Place detained: Maldives Police Service – Male' City - Republic of Maldives

Access to a Lawyer: Yes

Access to Family: No

Access to Medical  
Professional: N/a

Known Medical  
Conditions: N/a

## **Details of Abuse**

### **First time: 19 March 2012**

I work in MDP office as a volunteer. On 19th march evening I was standing in front of my office with some of our office workers. Suddenly a couple of policemen came over. Four policemen tried to enter into the office, but I and the rest of the employees said that police cannot enter inside.

It was about 4:30 pm. Then we told the other members inside the office to lock the door. We don't want to let police enter inside to harm our party members and destroy office assets. But the policemen started yelling at us and they were using abusive language too, and started banging the door.

That time the other two police women came and pushed me from the front and I fell on the ground. Then they started beat me with their batons. They hit on my shoulder and stomach continuously. I was in real pain and screamed begging not to hurt us.

No one could come and help me because of the police. At that moment there was a newscaster standing a little far from me. He said to the police not to beat women so badly. Then one policeman ran towards him. I don't know what happened to that guy after that.

The two policewomen near me stopped beating and pulled my sunglasses and used pepper spray on my eyes and ears as well. My ears took a long time to recover.

## **Details of Abuse/Abduct/Arrest**

### **Detainment on 02nd June 2012**

This incident took place after a police car followed me from the New Cemetery in Male' City, the capital of Maldives, where I was attending a funeral of a family friend. In the Maldives the funeral services are held as soon as someone dies and it can take place at any time of the day or night. In this particular case it was a late night burial.

Since it became obvious to me that the car was following me and I did not want to be alone if the car stopped me in the middle of the night so I went back to the cemetery. In addition to this car, a man on a motorcycle was also involved in these activities.

I was aware that an Intelligence Officer from the Police on a motorbike was reporting my moves and whereabouts. When I left for the second time the car again started to follow

me. So again I went back to the cemetery again.

By this time family of the deceased raised their concern, so when the car was parked on the road to the east of the new cemetery, myself and Hon. Imthiyaz Fahmy, an MDP Member of Parliament, approached the car and saw that it contained 2 people in Police Operation uniform.

Hon. Imthiyaz Fahmy asked them why they were trying to intimidate me by following me around. They did not respond but they made a call and immediately a police van and motorcycle appeared, with about 25 people in police uniform, and ordered me to get into the van.

- They failed to state a reason for their action when about 25 people in police uniform stopped and apprehended me on the road east of the new cemetery, after people in police uniform had followed me around in a car all night,
- No identification was produced (Anybody could be dressed in that uniform)
- Failed to present a court order when doing so, no name tag was displayed on the police uniform of any of them,

They handcuffed me in behind and took me to the police HQ and asked for my Name/ Address and Identity Card number and was asked to handover my mobile phone. I refused to give it and told them that it is my personal property and there is no reason for the arrest so I don't understand why I should give my phone to them.

The investigation team took me to a small room and took my personal details and when I enquired as to why I was abducted, they said 'alleged practice of witchcraft/black magic'.

And again asked me to give my phone to them. I refused and told them I would give it only in the presence of my Lawyer and I enquired as to why they need my phone. The answer was that I might delete any evidence on it (ie. Relating to witchcraft/black magic)

Since they did not have an arrest warrant or a court order to confiscate my phone I did not give my phone to them.

I was released on approximate 03:00am - 02nd June 2012

I declare that this statement was given of my free will and without any duress

11 June 2012



## **Hussain Mohamed**

(Report given by Himself)

FULL NAME: Hussain Mohamed  
DATE OF BIRTH: 26th June 1968  
ID CARD NO: A021592  
CONDITION OF ARREST: While at work.  
DATE OF ARREST: 26th April 2012  
PLACE OF ARREST: At BTEK, GODOWN, Hithadhoo, Addu City  
ACCESS TO LAWYER: No  
ACCESS TO FAMILY: No  
KNOWN MEDICAL CONDITIONS: NIL

I was arrested on 26th April 2012 while I was at work by the Maldives Police Service. They arrested me on the accusation that I run an anti-government website, the New Dhivehi Observer. However, later the police changed their story and accused me of terrorism.

I was taken into custody and kept at Gan Police Station.

The police beat me up in custody. They beat me up with their batons and their boots. They forced me to take my clothes off. I was handcuffed behind all this time. Then they dragged me outside and kept me handcuffed on the tarmac outside. It was very hot in the afternoon. They made me lie there for a long time. They poured something over me which felt as if my whole skin was burning and I was in a lot of pain. They kept me like that for over 5 hours.

After that they locked me in a cell of 5 people but we only had 2 toothbrushes to share among us. The cell was in a very bad condition and it was extremely unhygienic.

The police also came into my cell and dragged me out and beat me up again. They verbally abused me with very degrading language.

I was very poorly by then because of the beatings I had suffered and I was in great pain. I had a splitting headache and also found it very difficult to breathe but the police refused to

give me any medical treatment.

I was kept in this condition for four days before I was released by the court.

At no time I had been given access to my lawyer.

I suffered hairline fractures to my wrist and chest.

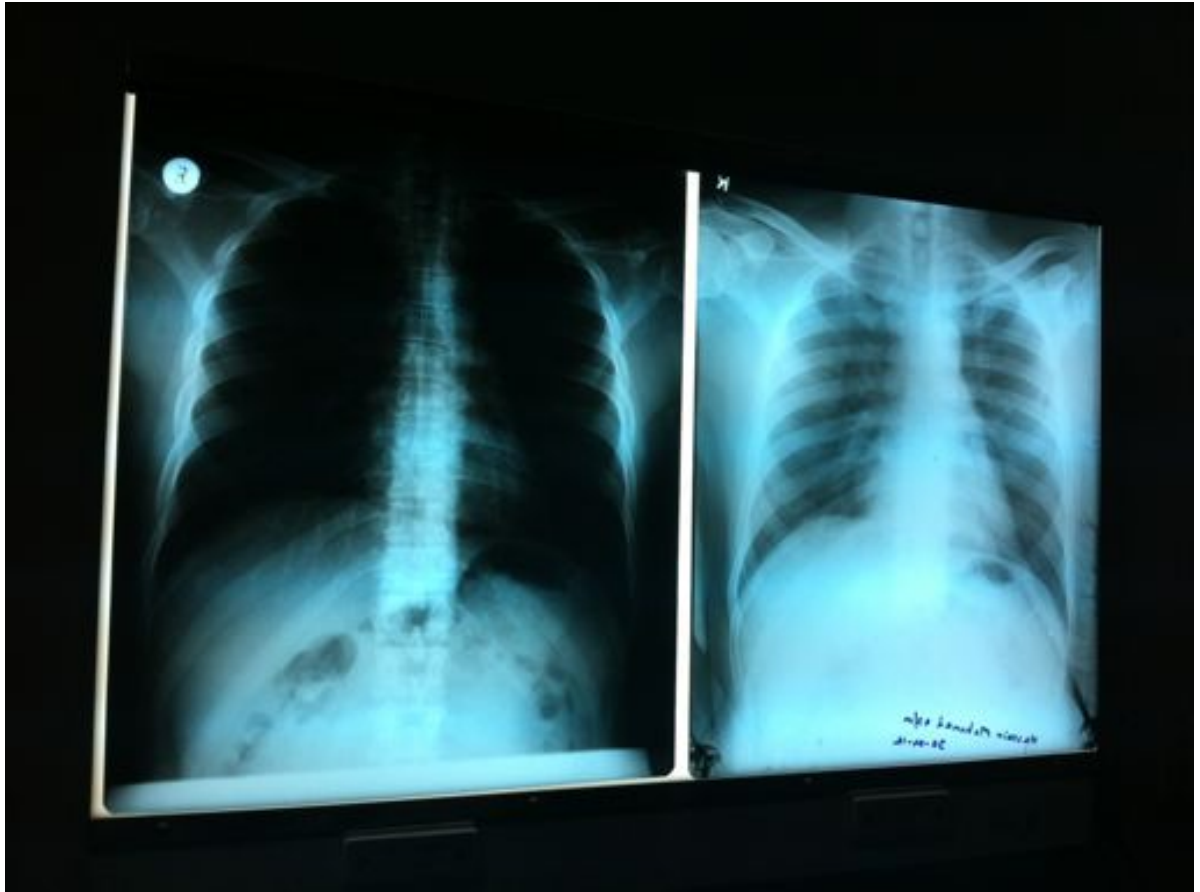
I declare that this statement was given of my free will and without any duress

8 May 2012

MEDICAL REPORTS OF & PHOTOS OF INJURY TO HUSSAIN MOHAMED











# HITHADHOO REGIONAL HOSPITAL

SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.  
Rahubani Magu 1903  
Tel: 688 5046, Fax: 688 5047  
S. Hithadhoo, Republic Of Maldives

Patient's ID No: AP21592 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M  
Patient's Name: Hossain Mohamed NIC No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 107/0/1/1  
City/Atoll/Island: HH Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2/05/2012

CO H/o Injury @ Side Temp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chest - 1wk ago Pulse: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIAGNOSIS Injury @ wrist 1wk Respiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
no h/o breathlessness, vomiting B/P: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESCRIPTION Blunt trauma chest x-ray chest AP view  
Tab Diclofenac 50 140 x-ray @ wrist  
Tab Pantop 40 140 x 5 days As at  
- Povidone ointment local apply 10 x 2 days WNC  
Cep Becosule 1cap od x 10 days  
Review after 5 days



DOCTOR'S NAME: Dr Mustafa SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to bring this prescription at each visit  
\*\*\*\*\*



# International Medical and Diagnostic Center

Albury, Haverata Maga, Hithadhoo, Sereno Atoll, Maldives.  
Tel: 688 8802, Fax: 688 8803, email: info@imdc.com.mv, website: www.imdc.com.mv

## Prescription

Name: Hasan Ali Mohamed  
Date: 20/11/11 Age: 45y Sex: M

P. No: **032796**  
Methicillin  
Contrain

- ① Cefixim 20mg 100 ⑤
- ② Ibuprofen 650mg 100 x 3day
- ③ Pan 40mg 100 x 3day
- ④ Mouth spray 11-11-11
- ⑤ Taxim O 200mg 100 ⑩

[Signature]  
IMDC

Doctor: Dr. Mohamed

Signature:

**DO NOT SUBSTITUTE PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS**



International Medical and Diagnostic Center  
MULTISPECIALTY HOSPITAL

DATE: 02/5/12

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT HUSSAIN MOHAMED AGED 43 YRS RESIDING AT COZY CORNER , HITHADHOO ADDU CITY PRESENTED ON 30/4/12 WITH PAIN RIGHT UPPER CHEST AREA AND PAIN IN BOTH WRIST AND ANKLE JOINTS. CHEST , WRIST AND ANKLE XRAYS WERE TAKEN AND SURGICAL AND ORTHOPAEDIC CONSULTATIONS WERE ADVISED. PATIENT HAD CONSULTED SURGEON. PATIENT TREATED WITH ANALGESICS AND ANTACIDS . PATIENT CONTINUES TO HAVE SEVERE PAIN IN LEFT WRIST JOINT AREA AND UPPER CHEST. PATIENT REFERRED TO HIGHER CENTRE FOR FURTHER EVALUATION.

*Shameed*  
7/12/12  
2/5/12

DR MOHAMED SHAHEED  
MEDICAL OFFICER





Women Protestor outside Hiriya School 12 March 2012 Male', Maldives



Passer by being pepper sprayed by Police (Male')



## STATEMENTS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

8 March 2012

# Maldives security forces use violence against peaceful protesters

The ongoing protests in Malé are in support of ousted former President Mohamed Nasheed

“

People who were peacefully exercising their right to protest were beaten on the head with batons, kicked and sprayed with pepper spray. These brutal tactics are outright human rights violations

”

**Abbas Faiz, Amnesty International's Maldives researcher**

Wed, 07/03/2012

Maldives police and military forces responded with violence against a peaceful rally backing the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), Amnesty International documented yesterday, violating international standards against the use of excessive force.

At least six protesters were injured, some seriously, when combined police and military officers attacked around 300 MDP protesters in the Lonuziyaarai Kolhu area of the capital, Malé – part of a wider pattern of attacks, documented by Amnesty International, on supporters of the political party of the ousted former President Mohamed Nasheed.

The protesters were part of an ongoing nightly rally in Malé in support of Nasheed, who was forced from office on 7 February, and replaced by Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed.

"People who were peacefully exercising their right to protest were beaten on the head with batons, kicked and sprayed with pepper spray. This use of excessive force violates human rights standards," said Amnesty International's Maldives researcher Abbas Faiz, who is documenting the human rights situation in Maldives.



One of the injured is a 16-year-old boy. He is in the custody of the police Child Protection Unit. Amnesty International's delegate in Malé was not allowed to visit him.

The security forces' attack on demonstrators in Lonuziyaarai Kolhu was apparently in retaliation for earlier clashes in the city, when the windows in a police station were smashed by stones. The police accuse MDP protesters of this attack, while the MDP denies the charges.

"The Maldives authorities must clearly announce, and demonstrate, that they do not tolerate retaliatory raids by the police against protesters. Police and military must not act outside the law," said Abbas Faiz.

Amnesty International has asked the police authorities to make public the number of people they have arrested, and the number of people who had to receive medical treatment after their arrest. Police have so far not released these details.

Credible sources have told Amnesty International that the police and military arrested more than a dozen people during their raid on the MDP rally yesterday.

They arrested some more people in the hospital after they had gone to receive medical treatment for their injuries.

The detainees were taken to police detention centres in Malé, and were later transferred to Dhoonidhoo, an island close to Malé which is the main detention centre.

The victims told Amnesty International that the military and police personnel shouted abusive words against the MDP when they raided their rally. One of the victims said: "They grabbed hold of my hair and pulled me up, shouting they would teach me a lesson for demonstrating against the new President."

"When police officers act like political opponents towards demonstrators, they erode respect for the rule of law and cast doubt on their impartiality as officers of justice," said Abbas Faiz.

Nasheed said a day after his resignation that he had been forced to resign by elements in the police and military.

His supporters took to the streets on 8 February in the cities of Malé and Addu, and were met with violence by the police and military who had sided with the new government.

28 March 2012

# Maldives must investigate sexual harassment of detained women protesters

The rally on 19 March was a protest about the opening of parliament where new President Dr Waheed was to speak

“

The beating and sexual harassment of political detainees under the pretext that they are suspected of possessing drugs must end. None of the four women detainees had been arrested on that suspicion so there was no justification for the searches.

”

**Abbas Faiz, Amnesty International's Maldives researcher**

Wed, 28/03/2012

Maldives authorities must immediately investigate allegations that police beat and sexually harassed four women detained during an anti-government rally, Amnesty International said.

According to testimony gathered by Amnesty International, the women, who were arrested on 19 March, were beaten during and after their arrest. While in detention they were forced to undergo naked body checks on the spurious suspicion of concealing drugs in their genitals. They were forced to strip and squat several times while in prison.

"The Maldives has an image as a luxury holiday destination, and over the past few years, it had established a positive track record on human rights. But the fact is at the moment, not only is repression of peaceful political protest an everyday reality, it has taken an appalling new twist with this cruel and degrading treatment," said Amnesty International's Maldives researcher Abbas Faiz.

"The government of Maldives must ensure that these allegations are investigated and that those found to be responsible are brought to justice.

"The beating and sexual harassment of political detainees under the pretext that they are suspected of possessing drugs must end. None of the four women detainees had been arrested on that suspicion so there was no justification for the searches."

The rally on 19 March was organized by the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) to protest about the opening of parliament where the new President, Dr Waheed was to give a speech. Protests have continued in the capital Malé and other cities since 7 February in support of former president, Mohamed Nasheed who was ousted after a police and military mutiny.

There is no indication that the women protesters were involved in any acts of violence during the rally. Their detention therefore was arbitrary.

Cases of molestation and other humiliating sexual acts against women have been reported in the past, but these latest allegations highlight a new police drive to suppress political activity under the pretext of body searching female detainees for alleged possession of drugs.

Maldives police has denied the allegations and said those aggrieved should ask Maldives Human Rights Commission (MHRC) to investigate their allegations.

But the MHRC has told Amnesty International that they have serious limitations in terms of trained investigative staff and dealing with human rights issues in a highly politicized environment is an overwhelming challenge for them.

The MHRC has yet to complete investigations into the alleged sexual harassment of female detainees in 2004. "By referring cases of police abuse of power to the MHRC, when it is clear that such investigations are beyond its capacity, the government is in effect forfeiting its own responsibility to enforce respect for human rights within the police force," said Abbas Faiz

"This is the wrong message to give to the police as it will encourage police officers to violate human rights with impunity. The Maldives government must ensure that the right to freedom of assembly and expression is protected at all times."

### **Case testimonies**

**Yusra Hussein**, 22, told Amnesty International that four women police officers arrested her around lunch time on 19 March, near the Maldivian Democratic Party offices. She said: "They beat me as they handcuffed me. They beat me on my stomach, which was very painful as I had had a caesarean section in the past. They grabbed my breasts and twisted them." They then took her from the police station to the Dhoonidoo detention centre, on an island about 5km north-west of Malé. "They beat me there with electric cables. I still have marks of their beating on my body. They then forced me to strip naked and made me squat on the floor. They took a urine test and did a body check on me. "They forced me to sit in that

position for a body check several times. Each time I felt sick but they paid no attention. They just wanted to humiliate me as they were shouting filthy words at me all the while."

**Aishath Muna**, said police arrested her after she had taken another female protester to hospital. Police had pepper sprayed the protester and she had been feeling sick. When Aishath Muna returned to the MDP offices, two policewomen arrested her. She said the handcuffs which they used on her were very tight. She complained but they took no notice. She was then taken to Dhoonidhoo detention centre where she was forced to take off her clothes and undergo a body check.

**Mariyam Waheeda**, 44, told Amnesty International that two women police officers who detained her on 19 March beat her and dragged her along the floor. They grabbed her breasts and twisted them while handcuffing her. She said they took her to the police station and only released her after she convinced them she had not taken part in the protest rallies.

**Aishath Aniya** said she had been forced to undergo a urine test, was made to take off her T shirt, bra and jeans, and was told to squat three times.

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI index: ASA 29/002/2012  
11 June 2012

Maldives government must end use of excessive force against demonstrators  
Amnesty International is deeply concerned at the Maldives government's continued repression of protestors, including beatings, pepper-spraying, and arrests. Those attacked include peaceful demonstrators, members of parliament, journalists and bystanders.

The organization condemns the excessive use of force by police personnel and urges the Maldives government to ensure a full and impartial investigation is conducted into such attacks. Amnesty International also calls on the United Nations and its member states, and the Commonwealth of Nations to continue to monitor the situation very closely and press the government to ensure people can fully realize their right to protest freely.

On 29 May Maldives police used excessive force against protesters in the capital of Malé. Demonstrators and some bystanders were kicked, beaten on their arms, head and hips with police batons and riot shields, and pepper-sprayed in the face. Those targeted had been protesting against the police dismantling of the nearby Usfasgandu rally site of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). At least one journalist, Ali Fahud from Raajje TV, covering the events was ill-treated and pepper sprayed by the police.

Malé has been the scene of regular protest rallies since the forced resignation of the former president Mohamed Nasheed of the MDP on 7 February 2012. His supporters have been protesting his ouster at the makeshift Usfasgandu rally site since 19 March, after police raided and dismantled their previous rally site in the Raalhugandu area on the outskirts of Malé.

The Maldives Police Force (MPS) has told Amnesty International that police "used the minimum required force to dismantle the area and arrest unruly demonstrators" and "deny the use of excessive force at the time of arrests and dismantling the area". Some media reported that at one point during the protest, objects were thrown at the police.

However, it is clear that by far the majority of demonstrators were not using violence, and any such incidents cannot be used by police as an attempt to justify the ill-treatment of bystanders and those rallying peacefully. Amnesty International believes that the police response to the demonstrations on 29 May was a clear example of excessive use of force.

One woman protesting peacefully in Majeedee Magu Street told Amnesty International that police officers suddenly pushed into them, and hit her and other peaceful demonstrators with their riot shields. Police hit them repeatedly on their back, and then pepper-sprayed them, aiming at their face and eyes. She said that police grabbed one demonstrator by the neck, shouted at him to open his mouth, and sprayed directly into his mouth.

These latest reports of pepper-spraying by the Maldives security forces are consistent with many other testimonies Amnesty International has gathered previously. Amnesty International therefore urges all countries which have supplied or continue to supply pepper spray to the Maldives, to ensure that the security forces do not use them to commit human rights violations. Any country that knowingly supplies police or military equipment to a force that uses them to commit human rights violations is itself partly responsible for those violations.

Police also beat bystanders who showed no signs of violence. An eyewitness saw a man sitting on a stationary motorbike taking no active part in the demonstrations. Police went for him and hit him on his head with their batons. He lost consciousness. His friends took him to a nearby house where they arranged private medical treatment for him – they did not take him to hospital straight away as they were afraid he would be arrested.

Police sources have told Amnesty International that a total of 58 people were arrested and only a few remained in custody. Most of the detainees were released without charge. Among the detainees was Mana Haleem, the wife a former minister in Mohamed Nasheed's cabinet. She was walking home with her female friend in Majeedee Magu Street when police stopped them and began beating them repeatedly with their batons on their arms, back and hips before taking them in a van to the police station.

In her testimony Mana Haleem says: "I asked why we were being held, but received no answer. Later, they [police] told us it was because we had not obeyed their orders. We asked them how we could have disobeyed their orders if they had not given any, but they were not interested. I have bruises on my shoulder, my back and my hip."

Imthiyaz Fahmy, a MDP member of parliament, told Amnesty International that he was standing peacefully at the rally site on 29 May when police came for him. He said he offered no resistance but police manhandled him and verbally abused him. He was detained, handcuffed and taken to Dhoonidhoo, an island detention centre close to Malé. He said he and other detainees were all handcuffed during the boat ride to the detention centre.

He said police in Dhoonidhoo told him he was arrested for "disrupting peace". The next day, in court, police stated that he had been detained for "physically attacking a woman police officer". The court nonetheless found no grounds for his detention and he was released without charge.

Several detainees told Amnesty International that they and others were told they must undergo a urine test to determine any drug use, although the police had at no time said that their arrest was drugs related.

Eyewitnesses told Amnesty International that when police eventually moved away from Ufasgandu, a group of angry men on motorbikes entered the area and began to vandalise and harass demonstrators. Nearby police took no action to stop them.

This is not the first time Maldives police have beaten peaceful demonstrators. It is high time the government enforced police accountably and stopped these human rights violations. Amnesty International is calling on the government of Maldives to:

- - -

halt attacks on peaceful demonstrators including beating and pepper-spraying; bring to justice any police personnel who have used excessive force;

ensure that security forces in the Maldives receive comprehensive training on what constitutes human rights violations, which they should not commit.

Amnesty International is also calling on countries supplying police or military equipment to Maldives to ensure they are not used to commit human rights violations.

## **Background**

Official permission was issued by the Malé City Council to the opposition MDP to use Usfasgandu as their rally ground. They have been holding rallies on this site since 19 March.

The government tried to obtain a court order to terminate that permission but the court refused to issue that order. The government then sought a search order from the court on the grounds that the MDP site at Usfasgandu was being used for criminal activity.

As police were dismantling the Usfasgandu rally ground, the MDP went to the Civil Court and obtained an injunction against its dismantling. Police personnel nonetheless continued to dismantle the site saying they had not received the order. After they had almost finished dismantling the site, they said they had received the order and withdrew.

An unofficial English translation of the court order gives three reasons for the search: “Suspicion that the current tenants of Usfasgandu area, having installed containers for use as shelter for habitation, were committing crimes within the area, and were causing damage to passers by and transiting vehicles in adjoining areas, and were engaging in sorcery and witchcraft.”

There is no indication in the order that the police had the authority to dismantle the site of the rally.