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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session, 14 September - 2 October 2015**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

MALDIVES

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the acceptance by the Maldives of a number of key recommendations, including to harmonize national legislation with international obligations;¹ to strengthen human rights institutions and ensure their independence, including the Human Rights Commission, the Election Commission and the Office of the Auditor General; and to guarantee the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.²

The judiciary, whose rulings continue to undermine human rights, is in urgent need of reform. In September 2014, for example, the Supreme Court brought contempt of court charges against the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives for highlighting flaws in the judicial system in its UPR submission. In June 2015, it went further and terminated the Commission's constitutional independence by ruling that it should now "work like a ministry or an extension of the government instead of an independent body".

Mr President,

We are concerned that hundreds of people are charged and tried in grossly unfair trials in violation of their right to freedom of assembly. This includes at least four high profile individuals tried in grossly unfair trials:

- Former President Mohamed Nasheed, sentenced in March 2015 to 13 years

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Maldives*, 13 July 2015, A/HRC/30/8, recommendation 141.3 [Nicaragua].

² A/HRC/30/08, recommendations 141.74 – 141.78 [France, Ghana, Russian Federation, Cote d'Ivoire, Angola].

- in prison for allegedly ordering the detention of a judge during his presidency;
- Former Defence Minister Mohamed Nazim sentenced in March 2015 to 11 years in prison for allegedly keeping an unlicensed weapon;
 - Former Deputy Speaker of Parliament Ahmed Nazim sentenced in March 2015 to 25 years in prison for alleged corruption.

Several other politicians are charged with similar offences and remain at risk of being sentenced in unfair trials.

Prisoners who file an appeal are unlikely to receive a fair and impartial hearing, unless the government urgently enforces judicial compliance with fair trial guarantees.

Mohamed Nasheed has not lodged an appeal because the court did not provide the necessary documentation in time. Mohamed Nazim lodged an appeal in April; however, the High Court has yet to decide on his appeal.

We urge the government to strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and to guarantee the rule of law, as recommended during the review.³

Finally, Mr President, we deeply regret Maldives' rejection of 28 recommendations on the death penalty⁴ and flogging.⁵ We urge the government to immediately announce a moratorium on these practices with a view to abolishing them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

³ A/HRC/30/08, recommendations 141.74 – 141.78 [France, Ghana, Russian Federation, Cote d'Ivoire, Angola], 143.32 [Netherlands]; 143.45 – 143.57 [United Kingdom, Trinidad & Tobago, Italy, Switzerland, Botswana, USA, Denmark, Canada, Argentina, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Cabo Verde, Brazil]; 143.73 – 143.74 [Kenya, Liechtenstein], and 143.78 [Sweden].

⁴ A/HRC/30/08, recommendations 144.10-144.33 [New Zealand, Spain, Belgium, Brazil, France, Latvia, Ecuador, Rwanda, Namibia, Norway, Paraguay, Madagascar, Italy, Germany, Spain, Argentina, Montenegro, Nepal, Ukraine, Slovenia, Uruguay, Sierra Leone, Australia].

⁵ A/HRC/30/08, recommendations 144.9, 144.35-144.37 [Albania, Slovenia, Uruguay, Latvia]