

**Statement by Freedom Now
UPR Report on Maldives
Agenda Item 6, UNHRC 30th Session**

Delivered by *Meera Nasheed*

Thank you Mr. President.

My name is Meera Nasheed, and I am pleased to speak on behalf of Freedom Now – an NGO that works to free prisoners of conscience around the world – about the report of the working group on the UPR of the Maldives.

My father, Mohamed Nasheed, former president of Maldives, was imprisoned by the Maldivian government on fabricated charges of “terrorism”. He is the first democratically elected president of the Maldives. And he has spent most of his life trying to establish basic human rights in our country.

My father is also one of my best friends, and we miss his humor, his boundless energy and his gentle smiles. We hope to have him safely by our side soon.

My father’s prosecution was politically-motivated and there were shocking violations of due process throughout his case. Amnesty international described his trial as a ‘travesty of justice’.

The government continues to support this gross injustice. And there are two dozen other political prisoners, and some 1,700 people facing legal charges for their peaceful political activism.

Several world leaders and officials have called for my father’s immediate release, including: the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the U. S. Secretary of State, the British Prime Minister, and the European parliament.

The government has hired a British lawyer, Cherie Blair, to represent it at the UN working group on arbitrary detention. We expect the working group to issue an independent and impartial judgment on my father’s case soon.

Because the government has fully engaged in the process, we expect it to fully abide by the working group’s recommendations.

Thank you Mr. President