



**United Nations Human Rights Council
30th Regular Session,
15 September to 2 October 2015
Agenda Item 6**

Oral Statement of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

On the Universal Periodic Review outcome for the Maldives

**MALDIVES SHOULD ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT UPR RECOMMENDATIONS ON
JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULE OF LAW**

24 September 2015

Check against delivery

Mr President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), with the support of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Maldives (UN Doc A/HRC/30/8), which sets out member states' recommendations for strengthening judicial independence, the national human rights commission (NHRC) and other constitutional institutions, and protecting human rights and the rule of law.

The ICJ and SAHR believe that the human rights crisis in the Maldives will only be rectified if the Maldives accepts and immediately implements these recommendations. To date the Maldivian authorities have not taken any concrete steps in this regard.

The Maldivian judiciary continues to disregard international and domestic principles of judicial independence, impartiality and accountability. The Supreme Court's "treason" case against the NHRC for its 2015 UPR submission to the Council, for instance, violated numerous international standards, including on reprisals and the independence of national human rights institutions (NHRIs).

Politically motivated criminal trials against former President Nasheed and former Defense Minister Nazim, among others, have involved arbitrary detentions and gross violations of the rights to fair trial and appeal.

The human rights crisis has also created an environment conducive to attacks against journalists and civil society.

The ICJ and SAHR urge the Maldives to accept and implement the UPR recommendations on strengthening judicial independence, the NHRC and other constitutional bodies, and protecting human rights and the rule of law.

The ICJ and SAHR refer the Council's attention to the ICJ's written statement submitted to the Council on 28 August 2015 (UN Doc A/HRC/30/NGO/32), and to the report of the joint ICJ-SAHR fact-finding mission in May 2015, entitled Justice Adrift: Rule of Law and Political Crisis in the Maldives, A Fact-Finding Mission Report, available at <http://www.icj.org/maldives-political-crisis-erodes-rule-of-law-and-human-rights/>, for a more detailed analysis.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Delivered by:

Mr Nikhil NARAYAN, ICJ Asia Pacific Programme, nikhil.narayan@icj.org

For further information:

Mr Nikhil NARAYAN, ICJ Asia Pacific Programme, nikhil.narayan@icj.org

Ms. Deekshya Illangasinghe, South Asians for Human Rights,
deekshya@southasianrights.org