



EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Stop President Yameen's authoritarian tactics against the people of Maldives and restore democracy

IDU Statement on the situation in the Maldives, February 21, 2018

The International Democrat Union (IDU) expresses its deep concerns about the latest examples of unlawful acts carried out by the Yameen administration and wishes to express its profound concern evoked by the repeated violations of democracy and the rule of law.

Therefore the IDU calls on the Government of Maldives to:

- immediately and fully implement the Supreme Court ruling of February 1 and release the political prisoners concerned,
- release the Chief Justice, Abdulla Saeed and Judge of the Supreme Court, Ali Hameed,
- release President Maumoon Abdul Qayoom, MP Faris Maumoon, MP Abdulla Sinan, MP Ilham Ahmed, their families and all those detained following the state of emergency,
- withdraw the military from Parliament and enable resumption of full parliamentary work.

The IDU emphasizes that the international community must go to great lengths, restoring democracy in the Maldives and ensuring peace and stability in the Maldives and the region. With this regards, the IDU urges

- the International Community to speak up against the authoritarian actions of the Maldives' Government, which threaten the likelihood of elections scheduled for this year,
- the international community to increase targeted sanctions against the Yameen regime and its leadership if the Supreme Court ruling will not be fully implemented by the Yameen regime.

Statement:

On February 1, the Maldives Supreme Court ruled that nine political prisoners must be released, including the leaders of opposition political parties and former President Mohamed Nasheed. The ruling also ordered for the immediate reinstatement of 12 MPs who had been unconstitutionally stripped off their seats by the Election Commission.

President Yameen imposed a state of emergency through a presidential decree, stating he would not abide by the ruling. The decree issued implies the suspension of fundamental human rights, thus providing security forces with sweeping power for raids and arbitrary imprisonment.

Furthermore, the presidential decree suspended several articles interfering with parliamentary and judiciary power. Parliamentary prerogatives, such as the right to summoning people, confidence motions or the right to remove the President, Vice-President or Prosecutor-General have been suspended as well. Moreover, the presidential decree suspended the constitutional court from acting as final arbiter. Hence, President Yameen effectively usurps parliamentary and legislative power.

Since the state of emergency came into effect, President Yameen jailed the Chief Justice of the Maldives and another Supreme Court official, former president Maumoon Abdul Qayoom and three oppositional law experts. Furthermore, oppositional key figures have been arrested without due process. The Police has responded with undue force against demonstrators calling on the Government requesting the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling.

The military has seized the Parliament, and soldiers have forcefully removed lawmakers from their premises.

Police forces have deliberately targeted media and obstructed live coverage of the demonstrations taking place throughout the country. Several journalists had to endure violent police attacks.

Usurping the powers of the Parliament and the Judiciary while suspending a wide-ranging number of rights, President Yameen's emergency decree bypasses all Constitutional checks and balances, thus making it unconstitutional. Furthermore, the events described above demonstrate clearly that the decree is being used to bypass due process and override Constitutional guarantees against arbitrary arrest and detention.

IDU strongly condemns these unlawful acts by the Government of Maldives. The arrests of oppositionists and the Chief Justice, the military takeover of the Parliament entail an assault on the democratic institutions and principles of Maldives. They reveal an increasingly authoritarian execution of power of the Yameen regime.

Consequently, IDU urgently calls on the Yameen administration to immediately undertake all measures to restore fundamental rights of the people and to reverse last week's worrying actions.