

Mr Azleen Ahmed
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
10th Floor, Velaanaage
Malé
MALEDIVEN

Fax: (00 960) 332 4739 | E-Mail: info@homeaffairs.gov.mv | Twitter: [@AzleenAhmed](https://twitter.com/AzleenAhmed)

Dear Minister,

I write to respectfully ask you to halt any plans to resume executions in the Maldives.

I am aware of reports from Amnesty International, that the resumption of executions could be imminent. A resumption of executions after more than 60 years would be a massive step backwards for human rights in your country. Instead the Maldives government should urgently commute all death sentences against prisoners on death row and impose an official moratorium on executions, with a view to the full abolition of the death penalty.

I am convinced that the death penalty is never justified regardless of the crime committed. The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. It is the premeditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the state in the name of justice. Judicial killings brutalize society, and violate the right to life. Moreover, they risk the execution of the innocent.

It is also alarming that Maldives government officials have justified the need to use the death penalty on public safety grounds. All too often, politicians have considered the death penalty a useful tool in appearing to address crime and make the public feel safe. In reality, the death penalty has no such effect and simply distracts from the need to address the causes of crime and providing effective remedies. Scientific studies have consistently failed to find convincing evidence that the death penalty has a more deterrent effect than life imprisonment. I do not downplay the seriousness of crimes committed, but I urge the authorities to consider introducing more effective crime prevention measures that are consistent with human rights.

I am also dismayed to learn that at least five of the 18 prisoners currently under sentence of death in your country were convicted and sentenced to death for crimes committed when they were below the age of 18. International customary law and two international treaties to which Maldives is a state party prohibit the use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders.

As far as I know, 141 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice; in the Asia Pacific region, 19 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes and a further eight are abolitionist in practice. The resumption of executions would ensure that Maldives can no longer claim to be a positive example on human rights in South Asia.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.
Yours sincerely,

Copy to: Botschaft der Republik Malediven
Embassy of Maldives to Belgium & Mission to the European Union, 11 Rond Point Schuman,
1040 Brussels, BELGIEN, Fax: (00 32) 2 256 75 69, E-Mail: info@maldivesembassy.be

Mr Mohamed Husham
Commissioner of Prisons
Maldives Correctional Services
Ghaazee Building
Ameer Ahmed Magu
Malé
MALEDIVEN

E-Mail: info@prisons.gov.mv

Dear Mr Husham,

I write to respectfully ask you to halt any plans to resume executions in the Maldives.

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H.E. President
Abdullah Yameen Abdel Gayoom
The President's Office
Boduthakurufaanu Magu
Malé 20113
MALEDIVEN

Fax: (00 960) 332 5500 | Twitter: @presidencymv

His Excellency,

I write to respectfully ask you to halt any plans to resume executions in the Maldives.

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H.E. Dr Mohamed Asim
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Boduthakurufaanu Magu
Malé 20077
MALEDIVEN

E-Mail: ali.mohamed@foreign.gov.mv (Foreign Secretary) | inaya@foreign.gov.mv (Deputy Minister)

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