

**Supreme Court of The Maldives**

**Malé**

**Republic of Maldives**



## **Press Release of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Maldives**

The Maldives Judiciary expresses deep concern over baseless and irresponsible claims made in the **Amnesty International Report 2015/2016: The state of the world's human rights** (Index Number: POL 10/2552/2016), issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

The **Report** is marred, once again, by inaccurate, incomplete, and at times false, information. It has erroneously claimed that the **Supreme Court of the Maldives** had curtailed the independence of the **Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM)**, and that the **Supreme Court** had declared that the **HRCM** should “work like a ministry or an extension of the government instead of an independent body”, while what the Supreme Court judgment in question actually did was to protect the **Constitution of the Republic of Maldives** and the Sovereignty of the Maldives by stating that independent constitutional commissions and bodies, as stipulated in the **Constitution**, had to be accountable only to the People of the Maldives represented in the nation's Legislature and that they had an obligation to verify facts and provide true information to international bodies. Also, **Amnesty** has shown shocking ignorance about the circumstances in which the period for appeal of lower court decisions at the **High Court of Maldives** was shortened, and erroneously claims that the period for filing an appeal is 10 days.

The **Supreme Court of the Maldives** is entrusted by the **Constitution of the State** with the obligation to guard it; the **Constitution** creates the Maldives Judiciary as one of the three Organs of the State and gives the **Supreme Court** the highest authority of administering justice. In fulfillment of these obligations, the **Supreme Court** has taken measures to ensure access to justice and expeditious court proceedings, to prevent misuse and abuse of the judicial process, and most importantly to ensure just protection of fundamental human rights guaranteed by the **Constitution**. Such measures were taken within the jurisdiction conferred upon the **Supreme Court** by the **Constitution** and only when those measures became necessary for the proper functioning of the judicial system.

**Amnesty Report** implied that decisions of the Courts of the Maldives were politically driven and claimed that some judgments of the Courts were pronounced in conclusion of “grossly unfair trials”. In making this false assertion, **Amnesty** conveniently failed to take note of the fact that anyone who feels she/he has suffered a “grossly unfair trial” has the right to appeal to the **High Court of the Maldives** and then to the **Supreme Court of the Maldives**—a right guaranteed and

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Supreme Court of the Maldives | Theemuge | Orchid Magu | Male' | Republic of Maldives

+ 960 3009990 Tel: ޕްރެސިޑެންޓް | + 960 3008554 Fax: ޕްރެސިޑެންޓް | URL: www.supremecourt.gov.mv ފޯމް ސަފްޕްރީމް ކޯޓް

