

Agreement to Form:

The United Opposition *for a return to democracy and Constitutional rule in the Maldives*

1 June 2016

London, United Kingdom

- A. whereas President Abdulla Yameen has consistently shown flagrant disregard for the Maldivian Constitution, the rule of law, democracy and human rights;
- B. whereas President Abdulla Yameen has decapitated all political opposition in the Maldives, with Mohamed Nasheed, the first democratically elected president of the Maldives, sentenced to 13 years in prison, on 13 March 2015, on politically motivated charges, and whereas this was condemned by UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, European Parliament, the Prime Minister of the UK, the Foreign Minister of the UK, The U.S. Secretary of State, The UN Secretary General, The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN OHCHR Chief of the Rule of Law Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Amnesty International, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, the International Commission of Jurists, South Asians for Human Rights; whereas his trial was marred by irregularities; whereas elected officials and other political leaders have also been intimidated and forcibly removed from political participation, forced to live in exile for fear of their lives, including former vice-president Ahmed Adheeb and former defence ministers Mohamed Nazim, who has been arrested and imprisoned; Adhaalath Party leader, Sheikh Imran Abdulla, who was sentenced to 12 years in jail on 15 February 2016 on a politically motivated terrorism charge for a speech he gave during the May 1 2015 protest, following a period of detention and a trial riddled with irregularities.
- C. whereas President Yameen's regime has systematically assaulted journalists and media freedom; whereas on 3 April 2016 the regime violently cracked down on a peaceful protest by journalists arresting 18; whereas numerous journalists are facing trial or other forms of intimidation; whereas on 17 February President Yameen introduced legislation to re-criminalise defamation, an action believed to be a response to widespread allegations of Government corruption led by President Yameen;
- D. whereas civil society in the Maldives is also under attack; whereas the Government has brought arbitrary changes to regulations governing the monitoring and financing of NGOs, while Supreme Court initiated guidelines restrict the independence of institutions such as the Maldives Human Rights Commission; and, whereas a number of NGOs who comment on human rights abuses have been threatened, and these threats have not been investigated by the authorities;

- E. whereas President Yameen's regime has introduced numerous edicts and decrees eroding the Constitutional right to Freedom of Assembly;
- F. whereas civil servants who have expressed any sort of critical outlook of the government face dismissal or the threat of being transferred to positions in a faraway island;
- G. whereas the disappearance of the journalist Ahmed Rilwan and the murder of MP Afrasheem Ali, and calls for disclosure on any findings on these incidents remain unanswered.
- H. whereas new Anti Terrorism Legislation and many other pieces of legislation are used to curb political opposition, rather than tackling the very real and growing threat of terrorism in the Maldives, especially of jihadi recruitment.
- I. whereas the courts, under President Yameen, have become an extension of the President's Office, with judges openly rubber-stamping the Government's wishes; whereas the Supreme Court has become a judicial Leviathan; whereas judges who issue politically motivated rulings are given unfair promotions; whereas unqualified judges are appointed and judges are transferred to achieve political goals and a judge is currently in jail on allegations of issuing an arrest warrant on President Yameen, on grounds of mass corruption, and the former Prosecutor General is also behind bars. The Judicial watchdog, the Judicial Services Commission, is strictly under the control of the Executive.
- J. whereas President Yameen's regime has corrupted the Elections Commission, removing its leadership and replacing them with Presidential cronies; whereas the new Elections Commission is attempting to introduce Electronic Voting without public and political party consent; and, whereas under these current conditions the prospect of free and fair elections in the future are compromised;
- K. whereas the Government has shown itself to be an untrustworthy and unwilling participant in meaningful all-party talks;
- L. whereas President Yameen and the First Lady face serious and credible allegations of involvement in massive corruption, money-laundering, terrorist financing and recruitment;
- M. whereas President Yameen has obstructed every venue to hold him accountable on Presidential expenses, whereas public funds have been embezzled and the President and First Lady has influenced internal government processes and has corrupted the entire system;
- N. whereas Maldives Police and Military officers who remain to defend the nation against any threats have been prevented from performing their duties, threatened to be transferred, denied promotions and threatened to be unfairly dismissed;

- O. whereas Maldivian businessman need an impartial system free from influence, corruption and injustice,
- P. whereas the trial and imprisonment of former president Nasheed has been condemned by UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, European Parliament , the Prime Minister of the UK, the Foreign Minister of the UK, The U.S. Secretary of State, The UN Secretary General, The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN OHCHR Chief of the Rule of Law Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Amnesty International, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, the International Commission of Jurists, South Asians for Human Rights and others.
1. The Maldivian Democracy Party (MDP), the Adhaalath Party (AP), elected Vice President of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), representatives on behalf of jailed former Vice President Ahmed Adeeb, representatives on behalf of the jailed former Defense Minister Mohamed Nazim agree to form an opposition coalition, henceforth referred to as the “United Opposition” with the purpose of restoration of democracy and Constitutional rule in the Maldives;
 2. While the risk of sovereign debt is extremely high due to growing public debt, establish a transparent system to monitor public finances and safeguard the national treasury,
 3. Protect the rights of over 1700 individuals who are currently at various stages of prosecution and investigation and who have been arbitrarily arrested and denied basic rights to freedom of expression, right to assembly,
 4. Ensure safety to the Members of Parliament who have been intimidated by President Yameen’s administration and ensure they are allowed to work freely, free from fear.
 5. The United Opposition calls for the immediate restoration of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of the media, freedom to disseminate and publish news, freedom to take part in the conduct of public affairs, freedom of association, the right to free and fair elections, the right to participate in the activities of political parties, the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent court, the right not to be arbitrarily detained, arrested or imprisoned, the right to an independent and impartial Judiciary and to an independent and impartial Judicial Services Commission, along with all other human, civil rights and political rights guaranteed under the Maldivian constitution.
 6. The United Opposition calls for the immediate removal of President Abdulla Yameen through all legal and lawful mechanisms.
 7. The United Opposition appoints a shadow cabinet (Annex I)

8. The United Opposition appoints former Vice President Mohamed Jameel as its leader; and Chairperson of the MDP as the Vice President of the Shadow Cabinet,
9. The United Opposition appoints former President Mohamed Nasheed, leader of Adhaalatah Party Sheikh Imran Abdulla and Former Defence Minister as its advisers;
10. The United Opposition calls for Presidential Elections to be held in accordance with the Constitution; in a free and fair manner; and openly monitored by the international community.
11. We pledge to work together to fulfill the aforementioned.

Maldivian Democratic Party

Adhaalath Party

Former Vice President Dr. Mohamed Jameel Ahmed

Former Vice President Ahmed Adeeb

Former Defence Minister Col. Rt. Mohamed Nazim

Annex I

Shadow Cabinet of the United Opposition of the Maldives

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Jameel Ahmed
Former Vice President of the Maldives
Leader of the United Opposition

Mr. Ali Waheed
Chairperson of the MDP
Deputy Leader of the United Opposition

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed
Former President of the Maldives
Advisor

Sheikh Imran Abdulla
Leader of Adhaalath Party
Advisor

Col. Ret. Mohamed Nazim
Former Defence Minister
Advisor

Mr. Abdulla Ameen
Former Minister at the President's Office
Shadow Minister of Defence and National Security

Mr. Mohamed Shihab
Mayor of Male' City
Shadow Minister of Finance and Treasury

Mr. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali
MDP's Machangoalhi Dhekunu Constituency President, former MP for
Kendhoo, DRP, Minister of Home Affairs in the Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
Government
Shadow Minister of Home Affairs

Mr. Ahmed Naseem

Former Foreign Minister under the MDP Government, member of the MDP's Foreign Relations Committee.
Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Adam Azim
Former MD of State Trading Organisation
Shadow Minister of Trade and Transport

Mr. Mohamed Aslam
Former Minister of Housing and Environment
Shadow Minister of Environment, Waste Management and Clean Energy

Uz. Hisaan Hussain
Legal Affairs Secretary at the President's Office under President Nasheed's administration, MDP's Eydhafushi constituency President, President Nasheed's lawyer
Shadow Minister of Judicial Reform

Mr. Ahmed Nasheed
Chair of Research and Publications Committee, Adhaalath Party
Shadow Minister of Housing and Infrastructure

Ms. Shifa Mohamed
Deputy Mayor of Male' City, President of MDP's Women's Wing, former MDP Minister of Education
Shadow Minister of Education

Dr. Mustafa Lutfi
MDP's Vice Presidential candidate in 2013, Former Chancellor of Maldives National University, Former Minister of Education under President Nasheed's Administration
Shadow Minister of Higher Education

Mr. Mohamed Shifaz
Vice President of the MDP, Former MP for Baarah Constituency
Shadow Minister of Youth and Sports

Dr. Abdul Majeed Abdul Bari
Found of Adhaalath Party, Former Minister of Islamic Affairs
Shadow Minister of Islamic Affairs

Uz. Hassan Latheef
Former Minister of Youth, Sports and Human Resources, President of the
MDP's Henveiru Uthuru
Shadow Minister of Civil Rights

Mr. Gais Naseer
Member of the MDP
Shadow Minister of Local Government and Decentralisation

Mr. Ibrahim Ameer
Vice Chair of the MDP Economic Committee, Fulbright Scholar
Shadow Minister of International Financial Agreements, Fisheries and
Agriculture

Ms. Shidhatha Shareef
Chair of Foreign Relations Committee, Adhaalath Party
Shadow Minister of Health, Social Protection and Gender

Mr. Maleeh Jamal
Former Minister of Youth and Sports
Shadow Minister of Resort & Guesthouse Tourism

Mr. Ali Niyaz
MDP Deputy Chairperson (Financial), former Minister of State for North
Province
Shadow Minister of Elections Commission & Independent Institutions Reform

Mr. Hussain Shameem
Former Deputy Prosecutor General
Shadow Minister of Constitutional Reform

Mr. Ahmed Mahloof, MP
Member of Parliament for Galolhu Dhekunu Constituency,
Former Spokesperson for PPM
Spokesperson for the United Opposition