

24 September 2012

Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of CMAG,

Please accept our greetings and compliments,

It was with great hope and expectation that the people of Maldives embraced democracy in 2008, in the first free and fair elections ever to be held in Maldives. The elections ended 30 years of dictatorship and provided the first hope that governments can be changed peacefully and by elections. The events of 6-7 February have however dashed all the hopes of the people that henceforth governments will change by free and fair elections, replacing centuries of Maldivian tradition where governments were changed by mobs acting in collusion with nobles who had fallen out with the Sultan.

The events of 6-7 February happened right before everyone's eyes, with three TV stations providing live coverage. Everybody heard the ultimatum that was delivered to President Nasheed by the current Defence Minister. Everyone was clear what would happen to President Nasheed had he not complied. By the time the ultimatum was issued, the entire capital was gripped in fear. Schools were closed and children were sent home, hospitals were filled with casualties, politicians had gone into hiding, private properties were being ransacked, and rogue elements had taken over state institutions leaving the general public in chaos and confusion.

We are very disappointed therefore, that the Commission of Inquiry found the transfer of power legal, and warranted to reinstate the power of the former dictatorship, which was ousted in the first democratic elections of 2008. We are shocked that crucial evidence was never obtained or given to the Commission and that the key witnesses were summoned only in the last 48 hours of the Commission's tenure, after one member spoke out publicly.

We petition the Hon Ministers to give us justice. We plead that if Ministers are not in a position now to give us justice, at least to refrain from delivering us injustice. We hope that Ministers will give careful consideration to the reservations that have been expressed about the methods of work by the Commission. We hope Ministers will not abandon the people of Maldives, and be with us until the genuine voice of the people are heard in a free and fair election.

This petition has been signed during a period of 7 days from 18 to 24th September 2012 by eleven thousand five hundred and twenty eight (11,528) Maldivians from all over the nation of different ages and backgrounds/professions, who enjoyed liberty and freedom briefly and wish to remain in such a safe and secure environment, where humanity is valued.

Please accept our best wishes for your success in supporting the values of the Commonwealth.

Signed

(Signatures of 11,528 Maldivians attached)