PRESS STATEMENT

In regard to English version of the article under the headline "Maldivian youth arrested in India says he was *tortured* in Jail", **published on sun news web page at: https://www.sun.mv dated January 26th 2013**, it is with deep regret that I, Ahmed Rufwaan Ali, 23yrs, state the article using the word "tortured", is a misinterpretation made in translation of the original statement I made on 26th January 2013, speaking to the media at Ibrahim Nasir International Airport, upon arrival from India.

The video *(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GI0wvC1C6w)* clearly shows that I am questioned by the reporters of how the arrangements in jail were and asked directly if I was "beaten", to which I regretfully responded, "It is a jail after all, and we will get beaten. Yes I was beaten. The rules of the officers there is that, once jailed we have to beg for mercy at their feet. I refused to do that, which is why is got the beating".

Using the word "torture" insinuates that I was exposed to extreme violent treatment which was not the case. It is also the "cultural" language barrier that the Dhivehi language consists of limited vocabulary which when translated to English language, can fit to a variety of synonyms. Also, the lack of literary expertise in linguistics of the journalists can often provide misleading information and I believe this could have caused this mistake. The concerned media has taken it very lightly and when requested to correct it, responded as "I'll give it a thought".

Hence, I kindly apologize to all concerned authorities for the unfortunate choice of word used in the article, which in my understanding, creates a far more negative and graphic image of how I intended to express.

I take this opportunity to highlight and express profound appreciation for the constant support and assistance provided by the High Commission of India in Maldives, throughout the events and during the legal phase which followed.

For further clarification on the issue:

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