

**Full translation of Chief Justice Ahmed Faiz's response to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay's criticism of the Maldives Supreme Court – 30.10.13**

"UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay's statements are poorly researched, irresponsible and instead of strengthening efforts at establishing democracy and rule of law, it adversely affects international and domestic opinion about the country's apex court. I express grave concern and do not accept her statements.

The Supreme Court has no disputes with anybody. The Supreme Court will judge any cases submitted to us, without any discrimination, as per the Maldives' constitution and laws, with consideration to protect everyone's rights. The Supreme Court carries out this duty to uphold the Constitution and laws and to administer justice.

Maldives is a free and independent state. A state that is sovereign and governs itself. The UN was established to protect the rights of big and small states alike. The organization is based on the sovereign equality of all its members and the UN charter protects member state's sovereign power over domestic jurisdiction. Hence, in no circumstance is it acceptable for an official, under the UN mandate, to make comments that violate the UN Charter and appear to deprive Maldives of rights enshrined in the UN Charter.

False allegations by any party on the Supreme Court's work does not aid strengthening democracy, administration of justice in the Maldives or uphold the rule of law. It does not encourage the promotion of democracy, rule of law or protection of human rights.

Hence, I harshly condemn UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navil Pillay's false allegations regarding the Maldives Supreme Court's work to uphold its constitutional duties and responsibilities do not believe she has any authority to speak in such terms."