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Geneva, 25 October 2013

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am writing to you as a matter of urgency in connection with reports about recent worrying developments in the Maldives affecting the People's Majlis.

We have been informed that two members of the People's Majlis, Mr. Ali Azim and Mr. Mohamed Nashiz lost their seat in parliament following a ruling by the Supreme Court yesterday over unpaid debts. The Criminal Court has reportedly issued an arrest warrant against MP Mr. Hamid Abdul Ghafoor at a time when the People's Majlis is in session. We understand that he has taken refuge in Parliament for fear of being arrested.

As you know, the IPU has consistently called for the constitutional and physical integrity of the People's Majlis and its members to be respected. It did so most recently in the resolution which the IPU Governing Council adopted on 9 October, a copy of which you will find attached.

We are concerned that these recent developments and the continued polarisation of the political situation might imperil the Maldives' fledgling democracy. The IPU therefore offers its assistance as on past occasions. I propose that an IPU delegation returns urgently to the Maldives to discuss and agree with the relevant authorities and stakeholders effective steps to ensure that the parliament can fully discharge its legislative and oversight functions freely and independently and that its members can do their work unhindered, without fear of intimidation and harassment or attack on their physical integrity. For the mission to achieve its objective, it should meet not only with the parliamentary authorities but also with authorities of the executive and the judiciary in order to examine steps that can be taken to promote a healthy relationship between the different branches of power.

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Mr. Abdulla Shahid, MP  
Speaker of the People's Majlis  
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I hope that the mission can take place as soon as possible and look forward to receiving your observations on this as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General

cc: H.E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed, President of the Republic of the Maldives  
H.E. Dr. Ahmed Faiz Hussain, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Maldives  
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Maldives to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva