



2018/OHCHR/11

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to latter's Joint Urgent Appeal (no: UA MDV 1/2018) from Special Procedures dated 29th January 2018, and Joint Communication (no: AL MDV 3/2018) from Special Procedures, dated 20th April 2018, regarding Ms. Shahindha Ismail.

The Permanent Mission wishes to submit herewith the Government's response to the aforementioned case.

The Permanent Mission would appreciate it if the Government's response could be transmitted to the relevant offices at the earliest.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 23 July 2018



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**GENEVA**



The Government of Maldives wishes to refer to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Joint Urgent Appeal (no: UA MDV 1/2018) from Special Procedures dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, and Joint Communication (no: AL MDV 3/2018) from Special Procedures dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018, regarding Ms. Shahindha Ismail.

The Government notes that the Maldives Police Service launched a criminal investigation against Ms. Shahindha Ismail for allegations of attempting to disrupt the religious unity of the citizens of Maldives and conversing and acting in a manner likely to cause religious segregation amongst people. After completing the investigation, Maldives Police Service forwarded the case to the Prosecutor General's Office, where the Office determined that they could not find enough grounds to pursue a criminal charge against Ms. Ismail or to have the charge proven in a Court of Law.

The case has since been filed by the Maldives Police Service.

With regard to the death threats and intimidations allegedly directed towards Ms. Ismail through social media as a response to Ms. Ismail's tweet, the Government notes that the Maldives Police Service initiated the investigation of the death threats upon intelligence gathered by the Service. The Government notes that an investigation was already underway at the time when the case was reported to the police via a letter.

During the investigation, Maldives Police Service found that while various threats were directed towards Ms. Ismail through different accounts on social media sites Facebook and Twitter, the accounts were found to be fake. Therefore, the Maldives Police Service is facing difficulties in obtaining the information of those accounts or the actual offenders. Nevertheless, the investigation is still ongoing and the case is being treated as a serious case.

Additionally, in order to guarantee the continuous protection of Ms. Ismail, the Internal Security Command of the Maldives Police Service provided personal security to Ms. Ismail. However, upon her request in writing to Maldives Police Service on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Ms. Ismail is no longer being provided personal security by the Maldives Police Service.

The Government wishes to reiterate that the fundamental human rights of every citizen, as set out in the Constitution of the Maldives, will be protected, and that the law enforcement authorities will always remain vigilant in protecting those rights.

Thank you.

