

Brief Summary of Events Unfolding in the Maldives



Dated: 20th January 2012

4th Day of Street Demonstration by Public after the Arrest of Judge Abdulla Mohamed

Following are the major events of the deteriorating situation in the Maldives as it unfolded on 20th January 2012.

Abdulla Mohammed's whereabouts:

20th Jan.

Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) has issued a statement saying "Human Rights Commission of the Maldives has expressed concern regarding the ongoing turmoil in the country and condemns the unlawful and unconstitutional arrests of two opposition party members by the Police and the secret detention of the Chief Judge of the Criminal Court by the Defense Force." <http://hrcm.org.mv/news/page.aspx?id=112>

HRCM met Criminal Court Judge Mr. Abdulla Mohammed at Military installation of Girifushi Island and issued a statement. This was their first meeting after his disappearance on 18th January night.

<http://hrcm.org.mv/news/page.aspx?id=113>

HRCM's report on their website in English language is different than what was stated on TV. Later DRP reacted to the statements saying HRCM is reluctant to fulfill their constitutional obligation.

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Supreme Court Justice Abdulla Saeed abused:

20th Jan. 13:30hrs

A group of thugs encircled Former Chief Justice and Supreme Court Justice Abdulla Saeed after Friday prayer and hurled abuses at him.

Reports in local language: <http://www.sun.mv/14512>

Later in the afternoon Chief justice condemned the attack and called state security organizations to provide security for Justices and Judges and Courts.

Report in local language <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/dhivehi/news/115862>

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Attack on opposition figures:

20th Jan.

A group of hooligans who went to Alfresco café looking for a vocal opposition member has clashed with supporters and police was seen investigating the scene with blood spattered in the area.

In a separate incident a group of hooligans had attacked DQP Secretary General in the afternoon. Both the incidents were reported in the media.

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MDP to challenge High Court order to release Judge Abdulla

20th Jan,

Media reports that MDP member Alhan Fahmy as saying that High Court's order to release Judge Abdulla will be appealed at Supreme Court. (Supreme Court has a separate order asking Military to release Judge Abdulla.)

Media has reported him asking party members not to let Judges reach to Courts on Sunday.

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Opposition accuses government of blocking the news websites:

20th Jan.

Opposition has accused the government of blocking news websites during the day for readers abroad.

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Vice Presidents calls to release of detained top judge:

20th Jan.

In remarks reported by Associated Press the Vice President Dr. Waheed has asked the government to release the detained judge. The Washington Post reported it as a discord with in the government. He said, "I think the government is in a very difficult situation because of this."

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IFJ issued a statement on media harassment in the country:

20th Jan.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has called President Nasheed and ministers of the Maldives government to cease the hostile rhetoric and respect the ethical and legal imperatives of media freedom.

<http://asiapacific.ifj.org/en/articles/ifj-alarmed-by-increasing-hostility-towards-the-media-in-maldives>

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Protest continues:

20th Jan.

The opposition had two demonstrations today. The afternoon demonstration was staged in the middle of the Republican Square and was dispersed by Maldives Police Service. A number of opposition leaders and MPs were arrested and taken to Dhoonidhoo Prison Island. The arrestees were not released yet.

The second demonstration was staged near MMA area. Despite road blocks by the military and police on the roads that leads to MMA area, a good number of public took part in the demonstration.

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Call for an eminent person's committee to resolve the crisis:

20th Jan.

Former MP and MDP member Mr. Jabir in a talk show on VTV called for an eminent person's committee to find a solution for the present crisis. He suggested the following members to be in the committee: President, Chief Justice, Speaker of Parliament, Opposition Party Leaders from DRP, PPM, JP, DQP, and MP Mr. Nasheed (former Law Reform Minister).

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