

Appendix I: Human Rights Watch Emails and Letters to the Government, April 2, 2021 – February 6, 2022

Email Sent to Sabra Ibrahim Noordeen, April 2, 2021

Dear Sabra:

RE: Maldives - Covid 19 and Migrant Workers Report

Thanks again for the meeting—especially as you did it while in quarantine. As promised I have listed below the key issues we are looking at. I would be grateful for any information you could provide on these. If there are documents available, it would be great to have them so we can include the most updated information. (I realize these may be in Dhivehi but we are working with some people who could help with that). Thanks very much.

All Best,

Patricia Gossman

Associate Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

1. Can you update us of the work by the Commission on Deaths and Disappearances and in particular the status of the Rilwan investigation?
2. Any information on the Yameen case and the delays. In this regard, On 11 December 2019, the UPR report said that the Prosecutor General commenced an extensive review of delayed trials and prolonged remand periods.
3. What particular steps is the government undertaking to ensure the safety of civil society organizations working on human rights?
4. On the larger issue of judicial reform, in May 2019, the government announced a five-year judicial reform roadmap. Are there any documents we could see about the scope of the reform effort and where things stand?
5. Can you update on the status of reform to the JSC?

6. On Freedom of Assembly. Where does the government stand on repealing or amending the 2016 Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act? Also a Presidential Action Committee was established to review cases where employees were dismissed due to political motivation – are there any details available on that?
7. The Prison Audit Report found that migrant workers were subjected to highly discriminatory conditions in detention centers and prisons – what steps are being taken to address this?
8. In response to the Prison Audit report, a Prison Reform Monitoring Committee was established to oversee implementation of the report’s recommendations. What progress is there on this? Also, the Maldives Correctional Service is meant to be in the process of finalizing regulations on the Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. Where does this stand?
9. Could you provide any update on the MMPRC corruption investigations?
10. What are the government’s plans to address gender based discrimination and violence (including allegations against politicians)?

Letter to Office of the President, February 2, 2022

Mr. Ibrahim Hood
Office of the President
Malé, Maldives

February 2, 2022

Dear Mr. Hood:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, an international human rights organization working in over 100 countries worldwide. We have published a number of reports on the Maldives, which can be found on our website at <https://www.hrw.org/asia/maldives>. I was previously in touch with your colleague, Sabra Ibrahim Noordeen, who I believe is now working on climate change.

Human Rights Watch is currently completing research on the state of reforms to the Maldives' criminal justice system. We will publish a report on our findings in the coming months. In order to ensure that we include all recent developments, we would like your thoughts on the progress and setbacks that have occurred, and your responses to a few questions. We would be grateful if someone in your office would send us a response by February 20.

As you know, we have been concerned about attacks by extremist groups on politicians and civil society activists, including those that have been investigated by the Commission on Deaths and Disappearances, and of course the attack last May on Mohamed Nasheed. We would greatly appreciate any updates you could provide on the status of that investigation, and any others currently under investigation. (We are also contacting the DDCOM). We have seen the new Hate Crime law, and we were also interested in any other efforts underway to address threats and harassment of civil society activists, journalists, political figures, and others.

We would appreciate responses to the following questions:

1. We note that in its preliminary findings, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention raised concerns about the excessive length of pre-trial detention, and that pre-trial facilities operate over capacity. Many pre-trial detainees are in police custody for months and sometimes years. What steps has your office taken to address this?
2. We are aware that Maldivian human rights and media groups have raised concerns about the Evidence Bill and that these concerns are being taken under consideration. Could you provide us with an update on the bill?
3. Where do matters stand with respect to the recommendations in the Prison Audit report? Kindly direct us to the appropriate office for an update.

We would also like to learn about any other measures your office is initiating or facilitating to carry out the President's reform agenda.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Patricia Gossman

Associate Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

Letter to Attorney General's Office, February 2, 2022

Ms. Faena Fayyaz
Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Office
Malé, Maldives

February 2, 2022

Dear Ms. Fayyaz:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, an international human rights organization working in over 100 countries worldwide. We have published a number of reports on the Maldives, which can be found on our website at <https://www.hrw.org/asia/maldives>.

Human Rights Watch is currently completing research on the state of reforms to the Maldives' criminal justice system. We will publish a report on our findings in the coming months. In order to ensure that we include all recent developments, we would like your thoughts on the progress and setbacks that have occurred, and your responses to a few questions. We would be grateful if someone in your office would send us a response by February 20.

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We would also like to learn about any other measures your office is initiating or facilitating to carry out the President's reform agenda.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Patricia Gossman

Associate Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch

Letter to the Commission on Deaths and Disappearances, February 6, 2022

Ms. Fareesha Abdullah
President
Commission on Deaths and Disappearances
Malé
Maldives

February 6, 2022

Dear Ms. Abdullah:

I am writing to you on behalf of Human Rights Watch, an international human rights organization working in over 100 countries worldwide. We have published a number of reports on the Maldives, all of which can be found on our website at <https://www.hrw.org/asia/maldives>. Our 2018 report included the details of some of the attacks that have been under investigation by the DDCOM. I was previously in touch with Justice Husnu Suood and met with him in December 2019.

Human Rights Watch is currently completing research on the state of reforms to the Maldives' criminal justice system. We will publish a report on our findings in the coming months. It will include a substantial section on the DDCOM. In order to ensure that we include all recent developments, we would like your thoughts on the progress of the Commission's investigations and your plans for completing the work.

We would be grateful if someone in your office would send us a response by February 20.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gossman

Associate Director, Asia Division
Human Rights Watch