



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

27.4.2015

B8-0402/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in the Maldives
(2015/2662(RSP))

Marietje Schaake, Marielle de Sarnez, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Pavel Telička, Ivo Vajgl, Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal, Louis Michel, Urmas Paet, Jozo Radoš, Gérard Deprez, Ivan Jakovčić, Robert Rochefort, Javier Nart, José Inácio Faria, Frédérique Ries
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Maldives
(2015/2662(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions,
 - having regard to the statement of the European External Action Service of 14 March 2015.
 - having regard to the statement of the Commonwealth of the 23 February 2015,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed of the Democratic Party was arrested on terrorism charges on 22 February for the alleged unlawful arrest in January 2012 of the then Chief Judge of the Criminal Court, when he was president;
- B. whereas Mohamed Nasheed was denied access to a lawyer at the start of his trial, and even when he was allowed legal representation the lawyers were not given enough time to prepare his defence;
- C. whereas Nasheed, the country's first democratically elected leader, was originally cleared of the charge, but the prosecutor general had him re-charged and arrested a few days later under tough anti-terror laws with the same allegation and he was sentenced to 13 years in prison;
- D. whereas the ruling came four days after Nasheed's lawyers quit in protest against what they called a biased trial aimed at destroying his political career and leading human rights groups have called the trial deeply flawed and a 'travesty of justice';
- E. whereas the court rejected an objection from Nasheed's lawyers that two of the judges were not suitable to hear the case because they had testified against Nasheed at a police inquiry on the judge's arrest;
- F. whereas there is an escalating and violent campaign of intimidation against critics of the government, including the media and a continuing erosion of human rights safeguards;
- G. whereas at least 140 peaceful protestors have been arrested for expressing their right to free speech, including at least three MPs from Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), as well as other MDP politicians;
1. Is deeply concerned that the conviction of former President Mohamed Nasheed for charges under anti-terrorist legislation raises very serious questions about due process of law and risks undermining trust in the independence of the judiciary in the Maldives;

2. Calls on the Government of the Maldives to ensure the trial of the former President is not motivated politically, and that the appeal processes are fair and transparent and in line with international standards. And for former President Nasheed to be accorded all his rights, including adequate access to his lawyers;
3. Reminds the Maldives of its international obligations to provide minimum fair trial guarantees and other protections under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
4. Calls on the Government of the Maldives to take urgent measures to strengthen the impartiality of the judiciary and condemns the arrest of at least 140 peaceful protestors for expressing their political opinions, which has included opposition politicians;
5. Calls on the Government of the Maldives to end impunity for vigilantes who have used violence against people promoting religious tolerance, peaceful protesters, critical media and civil society;
6. Calls on the Government of India to do more to work with the Government of the Maldives to deliver a human-rights-friendly environment in the Maldives, which is essential for strengthening democratic processes in the Maldives;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the European External Action Service, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the UN Human Rights Council and the Government and Parliament of the Maldives.