

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## Maldives Police Service

Malé

Republic of Maldives

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Reference no: 171-A(C1)/PS/2025/07

### PRESS STATEMENT

Under the Criminal Procedure Code, bodily samples are classified as either non-invasive or invasive. Non-invasive samples include photographs or the recording of audio samples of a suspect during a criminal investigation. Where the taking of photographs may involve the exposure of intimate areas of the body, such images are deemed *intimate samples* and are subject to additional legal safeguards to ensure the protection of individual rights during the investigation process.

To prevent ambiguity, when courts issue warrants authorizing the collection of non-invasive samples—such as photographs for the purpose of comparison with surveillance footage—they typically include an explicit caveat. This caveat clarifies that the warrant does not extend to the capture of intimate samples and authorizes only the photographing of non-intimate areas. This practice is widely adopted in the Maldives to ensure precision in the scope of warrants and to safeguard against the unauthorized collection of intimate samples under the guise of non-invasive procedures.

We acknowledge that a summons notice has recently been circulating in the media. This notice is in connection with an ongoing investigation into a case submitted by the Children's Ombudsperson's Office.

We are fully cooperating with the relevant authorities and remain committed to transparency and due process throughout this matter.

21 April 2025

