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Maldives Police Service

Malé

Republic of Maldives

Reference no: 171-A(C1)/PS/2025/17

PRESS STATEMENT

The Maldives Police Service issues the following statement regarding the police operation carried out outside the People's Majlis on 16 September 2025.

Sequence of Police Actions

1. Deployment for Security

From early morning, protestors gathered in the area surrounding the Parliament. Police officers on duty were tasked with ensuring public safety, flow of traffic, maintaining order, and securing the Parliament outer perimeter.

2. Unlawful Assembly Near the Majlis

Under Section 24 of the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act (Law No. 1/2013), no assembly, procession, or gathering of any kind may be held anywhere other than at locations designated and publicly announced by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology, except with prior written permission from the Maldives Police Service.

As no such permission had been granted and the location near the People's Majlis is not among the designated areas published in the Government Gazette, the gathering held on 16 September 2025 constituted an unlawful assembly under the law. Police officers were therefore carrying out their lawful duty to prevent prohibited gatherings within the restricted security perimeter and to ensure the safety of Members of Parliament and the public.

3. Breach of Security Barricades

During the protest, some individuals attempted to breach police barricades and obstruct security operations. Officers issued repeated warnings, urging compliance with lawful instructions and preservation of order.

4. Measured Intervention with Maximum Restraint

Throughout the day, police officers exercised maximum restraint in managing the situation. No tear gas, pepper spray, batons, or other crowd-control devices were deployed. Officers relied solely on communication, guidance, and professional engagement to disperse the crowd. Where necessary, limited physical restraint was applied to prevent escalation and ensure safety.





5. Orderly Dispersal of Protesters

Protesters were guided out of the restricted security perimeter in accordance with established protocols. The operation was executed without the use of forceful crowd-control measures and without major injury to either protesters or officers.

6. Restoration of Order

Roads and access points around the Majlis were subsequently cleared, ensuring the uninterrupted continuation of parliamentary work and the safety of all individuals in the area.

Police Position

The Maldives Police Service firmly rejects allegations of brutality. At all stages of the operation, officers acted strictly in line with operational protocols, applying only the minimum force necessary to preserve order and safeguard both demonstrators and law enforcement officers.

We note that an image circulated in the media has been presented without proper context. The individual shown was a participant in an unlawful gathering, not present in the capacity of a journalist. The photo, taken at a selective angle, creates a misleading impression and does not reflect the overall conduct of the operation, during which officers exercised maximum restraint and professionalism.

Oversight and Accountability

The Maldives Police Service reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of all individuals, including the right to peaceful assembly, while ensuring the protection of public safety and critical national institutions. The approach adopted on 16 September 2025 reflects the Service's priority to employ only lawful, proportionate, and professional measures.

The Professional Standards Command has initiated a review of the actions undertaken during the protest. Should any breach of protocol or misconduct be identified, appropriate disciplinary or legal measures will be enforced.

We thank the general public for their cooperation and assure the community that the Police will continue to act with professionalism, fairness, and accountability in all situations.



18 September 2025