



Maldives Police Service

Malé

Republic of Maldives

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Reference No:171-A(C1)/PS/2025/19

PRESS STATEMENT

Regarding the gathering organized by the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) in Malé on the night of October 3, 2025.

During the course of the gathering, participants attempted to move onto Majeedhee Magu in violation of the route previously agreed upon with the police. Despite repeated advice and instructions to proceed along the approved route, the participants of the gathering refused to comply. Participants confronted police officers, dismantled and threw barricades that had been placed to manage the crowd, and attempted to seize police-issued shields used for public order management. One such shield was taken by the participants, constituting an unlawful act.



These actions clearly caused the gathering to lose its peaceful nature as defined in Law No. 2013/1 (Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act). Furthermore, under the first amendment to this Act, the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology has designated specific areas in Malé for holding gatherings, marches, or vehicle processions without requiring prior written permission from the Maldives Police Service. As the participants attempted to continue their gathering outside these designated areas, the police, after issuing repeated warnings and advice, acted with patience and professionalism to disperse the gathering using lawful means.

The use of force by the police was carried out strictly in accordance with the authority granted under Law No. 2020/34 (Police Service Act) and the regulations made thereunder. The action was further



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guided by Regulation No. 2021/R-106 (Regulation on Acquiring, Possessing, and Using Weapons) and Regulation No. 2011/R-119 (Regulation on Police Use of Power and Discretion), which outline the circumstances and limits for such interventions. We affirm that all fundamental principles governing the use of force were fully upheld in managing the situation and restoring order.

4 October 2025

