

Remarks by the Secretary of State John Kerry:

Strengthening the U.S.-Sri Lanka Partnership for Human Rights and Lasting Peace

Colombo, Sri Lanka

May 2, 2015

[...]

Now, of course, Sri Lanka is much more of a marketplace for clean energy. It is much more than simply a market to attract clean energy, and you know that, and I know that. It's a cultural model; it's a huge economic mosaic. It could well become, as you march down this road with the effectiveness you have been these days, a model for democracy and the restoration of democracy. It could show unity in remarkable ways to the region. *We see even now, regrettably, that there are signs – troubling signs that democracy is under threat in Maldives, where former President Nasheed has been imprisoned without due process.* And that is an injustice that must be addressed soon. But Sri Lanka's story carries the promise that people can hold their government accountable, use peaceful dissent, use the power of the ballot box and change the course of history. And we can already see here the power of that promise.

[...]

*For a transcript of the full remarks, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/05/241421.htm>