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May 11, 2017

His Excellency Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Agnes Callamard
Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
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urgent-action@ohchr.org

Mr. David Kaye
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
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Mr. Ahmed Shaheed
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
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United Nations Office at Geneva
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Mr. Michel Forst
Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
United Nations Office at Geneva
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Re: Request for Independent and Impartial Investigation of Murder of Yameen Rasheed, Citizen of the Maldives

Dear High Commissioner Zeid and Special Rapporteurs Callamard, Kaye, Shaheed, and Forst,

I am writing on behalf of the family of Yameen Rasheed, a prominent blogger, entrepreneur, and human rights defender in the Maldives who was brutally murdered on April 23, 2017. The Maldivian authorities were alerted to countless death threats Rasheed received, yet no protective measures were put in place to save his life. Furthermore, the authorities have taken no meaningful action to investigate Rasheed's murder. Given the erosion of human rights and respect for the rule of law in the Maldives, and taking into account a history of substandard investigations into previous attacks against bloggers and journalists, I believe that it is absolutely critical that **an investigation into Rasheed's murder be led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights or other reputable international organization.**

Rasheed was a popular blogger whose writing focused on social justice issues and government incompetence in the Maldives. As a Muslim with tolerant views, Rasheed was highly critical of rising extremism in the Maldives and frequently wrote against the spread of radicalization and the impunity of politicians who implicitly support the upsurge. Through his blog, Rasheed gathered a large following of readers, becoming especially popular among the more liberal populace in the Maldives.

Because of his views, Rasheed began receiving death threats and "anonymous" incendiary comments on his blog and other social media profiles. Rasheed reported those threats to the police on multiple occasions, the earliest formal complaint being filed in 2014, but the Maldivian Police Service (MPS) ignored his reports.

After a dramatic increase in threats in the fall of 2016, Rasheed filed the most recent and last complaint to the MPS on December 22, 2016. Yet again, the MPS ignored his complaint and failed to take any preventive action.

Rasheed is not the first blogger or journalist to have suffered so greatly because of the abject failure of the Maldivian authorities to protect their citizenry. In the past five years, there have been a number of prominent and widely reported cases of bloggers and journalists attacked, disappeared, or murdered in the Maldives. In all of these cases, the violent acts have gone largely uninvestigated and unsolved, despite calls from local journalists, civil society, and the international community.

The attached complaint and questionnaire provide more detail about Rasheed's case, as well as those of other attacked and murdered journalists.

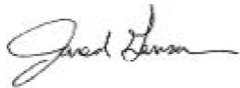
Rasheed's family is extremely grateful for the public outpouring of support for Rasheed, and for the swift condemnation of the perpetrators by the international community. They were particularly heartened by statements from the Office of High Commissioner Zeid, Special Rapporteur Kaye, and the Office of the UN in the Maldives, and to see that Shoko Noda, UN Resident Coordinator to the Maldives, met with the MPS "to stress need for thorough, impartial investigation of @yaaymn case & strengthen response mechanisms to threats." The family was

also very encouraged to see that Special Rapporteurs Callamard, Kaye, Shaheed, and Forst “urge a thorough and independent public inquiry.”

However, we do not believe that any investigation by the MPS or other Maldivian authority alone can be sufficient. First, there is a pervasive culture of impunity for human rights violations in general in the Maldives. Second, other prominent cases of attacks and murders have gone uninvestigated and unsolved. And third, the MPS has already failed to take preventive measures to protect Rasheed when he reported death threats.

Based upon this information, I respectfully request that, in accordance with your working methods, **an investigation into Rasheed’s murder be led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights or other reputable international organization**, and that **the Government of the Maldives be pressed to allow full access to and provide cooperation with that independent and impartial investigation.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Genser", written in a cursive style.

Jared Genser
Counsel to the Family of Yameen Rasheed

INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINT TO:

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR
ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS,

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION,

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF, and

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



In the Matter of
Yameen Rasheed, *deceased*
Citizen of the Republic of Maldives

Submitted by:

Jared Genser & Nicole Santiago
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May 11, 2017

**Questionnaire To Be Completed by Persons with Reliable Knowledge
on the Occurrence of Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions**

I. Identity of the Person Concerned

1. **Family name:** Rasheed
2. **First name:** Yameen
3. **Sex:** Male
4. **Birth date or age:** 29 years
5. **Nationality(ies):** Maldivian
6. **Civil status (single, married, etc.):** Single
7. **Identity document:** Passport
Number: E0485131
Issued by: Department of Immigration and Emigration, Republic of Maldives
Date of issue: April 17, 2014
8. **Profession and/or activity:** Blogger, Entrepreneur, and Information Technologies (IT) professional at the Maldives Stock Exchange
9. **Address of usual residence:**
M. Spatula, 2nd Floor, Malé City, Republic of Maldives
10. **Is there a link to other cases/ persons? Please specify:** Many other independent bloggers and journalists have been beaten or disappeared in recent years, all of whom were openly critical of human rights abuses, Islamic radicalization, and government corruption in the Maldives.

II. Information Regarding the Incident

1. **Date:** April 23, 2017
2. **Place:** Stairwell of his apartment in Malé, Maldives
3. **Time:** Rasheed was found bleeding and unconscious around 2:50 am; he was transported to Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Malé, where he was pronounced dead at 3:40 am.
4. **The nature of the incident:**
Rasheed had received numerous death threats via social media, beginning around December 2011. Rasheed formally reported the death threats to the Maldives Police Service, who failed to investigate or provide any type of protective

services.

At present, the identity of the perpetrators is unknown. There are no known witnesses to Rasheed's murder.

III. Steps taken by the victim or his/her family:

(a) Indicate if complaints have been filed, when, by whom, and before which organ:

Regarding the death threats: Rasheed formally reported the threats to the Maldives Police Service in September 2014 and in December 2016. From 2011 onward, Rasheed also informed the Maldives Police Service on Twitter multiple times that he had received threats. He also informed the Commissioner of Police on Twitter.

Regarding the murder: On May 3, 2017, Rasheed's family filed a civil suit at the Civil Court of the Maldives for the Maldives Police Service's negligence in failing to investigate the death threats and failing to protect Rasheed, in violation of the Maldivian Constitution and the Police Act.

(b) Other steps taken:

Regarding the death threats: As the Maldivian Police Service offered no protective actions, Rasheed took a number of steps to protect himself; he self-censored on social media, avoided going out at late hours, and made sure he was accompanied by someone when outside his apartment whenever possible.

Regarding the murder: A petition is currently circulating calling for independent investigations into the cases of both Rasheed and Ahmed Rilwan, an independent journalist disappeared in 2014.¹

Rasheed's father collected 800+ letters from individuals calling for a prompt investigation into Yameen's murder, which he attempted to submit to the Maldives Police Service.²

A public demonstration, "Justice for Yameen Rasheed," took place on Monday, May 8, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, outside the office of the Maldivian High Commission.³

¹ Shafaa Hameed, *Hundreds Sign Petition Calling for Credible Investigation of Yameen's Murder*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 1, 2017, available at <http://maldivesindependent.com/society/hundreds-sign-petition-calling-for-credible-investigation-of-yameens-murder-130264>.

² *Murdered Blogger: Police Reject Letters Calling for Independent Probe*, VNEWS, May 2, 2017, <http://www.vnews.mv/83171>.

³ *Solidarity Protest Calling for Justice for Slain Maldivian Blogger, Yameen Rasheed in Colombo*, SRI LANKA BRIEF, May 4, 2017, <http://srilankabrief.org/2017/05/solidarity-protest-calling-for-justice-for-slain-maldivian-blogger-yameen-rasheed-in-colombo/>.

IV. Steps taken by the authorities:

(a) **Indicate whether or not there have been investigations by the State authorities; if so, what kind of investigations?**

Regarding the death threats: No known investigations.

Regarding the murder: No autopsy was done because the family did not want it to be done. Not only was the cause of death quite evident, but the family wanted the focus of any investigation to be the perpetrators' arrest.

As of May 9, 2017, six suspects have been arrested.⁴

The results of any other more robust investigation by the authorities taking place, if any, are unknown. The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives released a statement calling on the public to “not obstruct the investigation and to cooperate with the investigators,”⁵ which many interpreted as another example of the Maldivian authorities' attempt to silence its critics.

(b) **In case of complaints by the victim or its family, how have the organs dealt with them? What is the outcome of those proceedings?**

On May 2, 2017, Rasheed's father attempted to submit 800+ letters signed by individuals calling for a prompt investigation, but the Maldives Police Service refused the letters.⁶

At present, there have been no public statements in response to the civil complaint filed by Rasheed's family.

V. Identity of the persons submitting the case

1. **Name(s):** Jared Genser and Nicole Santiago
2. **Status:** International counsel, *pro bono*, to the family of Yameen Rasheed
3. **Address** (telephone, fax, e-mail): 1700 K Street NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20006; +1.202.466.3069 (phone); +1.202.478.5162 (fax); jgenser@perseus-strategies.com
4. **Please state whether you want your identity to be kept confidential:** Not necessary.

⁴ Shafaa Hameed, *Four More Suspects Arrested Over Yameen's Murder*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 9, 2017, <http://maldivesindependent.com/crime-2/four-more-suspects-arrested-over-yameens-murder-130447>.

⁵ Press Statement, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE MALDIVES, Apr. 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/hrcmv/status/856099079952007169/photo/1> (in Dhivehi).

⁶ *Murdered Blogger: Police Reject Letters Calling for Independent Probe*, VNEWS, May 2, 2017, <http://www.vnews.mv/83171>.

Statement of Facts

I. Maldives Political Context

The Maldives, a country that comprises nearly 1,200 small islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean, is in turmoil under President Abdulla Yameen.

For thirty years, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom (1978-2008) ruled the Maldives as a brutal autocracy.⁷ His political reign was marked by corruption and widespread human-rights violations.

Under the leadership of President Mohamed Nasheed (2008-2012), the country's first democratically-elected president, the Maldives embarked on significant government and human rights reforms. However, in 2012, Nasheed was forced to resign under threat of personal violence and domestic unrest made by his opponents.⁸ In a subsequent election marred by numerous irregularities and interference by the Maldives Supreme Court,⁹ former President Gayoom's half-brother Abdulla Yameen came into power.¹⁰

The past four years under Yameen's rule have been marked by an increasingly broad range of human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, enforced disappearance, harassment, and intimidation of human rights defenders, dissidents, and others critical of Yameen's regime.¹¹ Yameen has systematically used these unlawful practices to instill fear among Maldivian civil society, and the result has been the rapid deterioration of the state of democracy, rule of law, and human rights in the Maldives. On April 28, 2017, Freedom House dropped Maldives' status from "Partly Free" to "Not Free," "as the government further tightened its control of the media."¹²

As an attempt to silence his critics, both within his political party and in the opposition, Yameen has targeted a number of high-ranking public officials, including former Vice Presidents, defense ministers, a Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, a Prosecutor General, a Deputy Attorney General, a Supreme Court Chief Justice, a Police Commissioner, and leading opposition leaders, among others. In total, it is estimated that

⁷ *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers*, HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, A/HRC/23/43/Add.3, May 21, 2013; *The Prosecution of Former Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed: Report of BHRC's Second Independent Legal Observation Mission*, BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF ENGLAND AND WALES, Feb. 3-4, 2013.

⁸ Decca Aitkenhead, *Dictatorship is Coming Back to the Maldives and Democracy is Slipping Away*, THE GUARDIAN, Apr. 1, 2012.

⁹ *Maldives Supreme Court is Subverting the Democratic Process*, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Oct. 30, 2013; see also *Maldives High Court Delays Presidential Election for Third Time*, JURIST, Nov. 10, 2013.

¹⁰ *Maldives Election: Abdulla Yameen Wins Run-Off Vote*, BBC, Nov. 16, 2013, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-24974019>.

¹¹ *Maldives: State of Emergency an Alarming Development in Continuing Crackdown on Human Rights*, Nov. 4, 2015, available at <http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/press-releases/maldives-state-of-emergency-an-alarmingdevelopment-in-continuing-crackdown-on-human-rights>.

¹² *Status Change, Profile: Maldives*, FREEDOM HOUSE, Apr. 28, 2017, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2017/maldives>.

there are more than 1,700 political prisoners, activists, politicians, and students who are facing charges or have been arbitrary arrested and detained.¹³

Of particular concern to this complaint is the treatment of bloggers and journalists. As a state party to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Maldives has committed itself to ensuring a minimum standard of fundamental rights for all people in the Maldives.¹⁴ This includes the right to freedom of expression, which encompasses the freedom “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds” through any chosen medium.¹⁵ But instead of protecting these rights, the Maldivian government suppresses freedom of expression through censorship and intimidation.¹⁶ In extreme cases, though increasingly more frequent, the Government has resorted to violence and murder to silence its opponents.¹⁷

An additional layer to this context is the rising tide of religious extremism in the Maldives, which is estimated to send more foreign fighters to join ISIS, on a per capita basis, than any other country outside the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region. Yameen has been complicit in the spread of radical Islam by turning a blind eye to the increase of radical Islamist militancy, radical rallies sympathizing with ISIS, and the growing number of politically motivated attacks by Islamist groups against organizations and individuals critical of the Government.

The violent attacks by extremist vigilante gangs and police officers against reporters, politicians, activists, and students are ongoing and without redress,¹⁸ as the Government has fostered a culture of impunity for human rights abuses.

¹³ Owen Bowcott, *Former Maldives President Warns of Return to Dictatorship on UK Trip*, THE GUARDIAN, Jan. 25, 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/25/former-maldives-president-mohamed-nasheed-warns-return-dictatorship-uk-trip>.

¹⁴ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, G.A. Res 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16), at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171, entered into force 23 March 1976, [hereinafter *ICCPR*]. The Maldives acceded to the ICCPR on September 19, 2006. *United Nations Treaty Status: ICCPR*, http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREA TY&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&lang=en#EndDec.

¹⁵ *ICCPR*, at Art. 19(2).

¹⁶ See, e.g., *Court Order Halts Printing the Only Newspaper in the Maldives*, COLOMBO GAZETTE, Mar. 31, 2016, <http://colombogazette.com/2016/03/31/court-order-halts-printing-the-only-newspaper-in-the-maldives/> (discussing the forced closure of HAVEERU DAILY); THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S HUMAN RIGHTS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, Feb. 22, 2017, at 244 (“Free and independent media faced harassment in the form of lawsuits and bans. News outlets Haveeru, DhiTV, AdduLIVE and Channel News Maldives were on occasion blocked or forced to shut down”).

¹⁷ See Section II below, discussing “Other Politically Motivated Attacks and Murders in the Maldives against Bloggers and Journalists.”

¹⁸ See, e.g., THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S HUMAN RIGHTS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, Feb. 25, 2015, at 241-42 (discussing the fact that no police or military officials were brought to justice for beating and injuring dozens of members and leaders of the MDP in February 2012); *Maldives: 2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, Mar. 3, 2017, (“The government did not take steps to prosecute and punish police and military officers who committed abuses”).

Incredibly, following Rasheed's murder, Yameen made a public speech implicitly condoning his murder by suggesting that freedom of expression does not extend to speech about religion:

Insulting religion through freedom of expression, who is going to accept this? For a certainty, under this Maldivian state, the government does not believe that a person can write to insult religion in any way they want, on any medium they want, under freedom of expression.¹⁹

Yameen went on to liken bloggers who "insult religion" to terrorists, and indirectly endorsed violence against those bloggers:

As I said another night as well, a terrorist is not by any means someone who blows up a place...

When someone keeps writing and writing, spreading and spreading hate messages to create a bad image among the public of an innocent [religious] person, and it reaches the point where the rest of the public or a majority of the public believe that he is a fearsome and dangerous person, then there might be those who would dare to do anything to that person [who keeps writing]...

So action is taken against hate message elsewhere in the world, too. Action is being taken against people who manage Twitter handles...

Is the people's freedom obstructed when you talk and talk and write questioning the oneness of Allah? ... We don't have to accept these things.²⁰

Furthermore, the heavily politicized judiciary provides no accountability for human rights abuses perpetrated by those aligned with Yameen.²¹ The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives should be the independent mechanism to ensure accountability,²² but its activities have also been undermined by the Government. In June 2015, the Supreme Court of the Maldives barred the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives from communicating with foreign organizations after two of its commissioners submitted information about the judiciary's lack of independence; the commissioners were themselves charged with treason.²³ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid responded that the ruling is "yet another example of the judiciary undermining human

¹⁹ Mohamed Junayd, *President Yameen on Hate Speech and Limits of Free Expression*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 3, 2017, <http://maldivesindependent.com/politics/president-yameen-on-hate-speech-and-limits-of-free-expression-130252> (translating a speech by Present Yameen delivered at a ruling part event on Thursday, April 27, 2017).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ See, e.g., *Maldives Judiciary Hammered in UN Human Rights Review*, MINIVAN NEWS, May 6, 2015, <http://minivannewsarchive.com/politics/maldives-judiciary-hammered-in-un-human-rights-review-97792>.

²² *Mission*, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE MALDIVES, <http://www.hrcm.org.mv/aboutus/about.aspx#Mission>.

²³ *Maldives: Restore Independence and Remedy Reprisal against National Human Rights Commission*, INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, June 18, 2015, <http://www.ishr.ch/news/maldives-restore-independence-and-remedy-reprisal-against-national-human-rights-commission>.

rights protection in the Maldives.”²⁴

Foreign governments, international organizations, and numerous non-governmental organizations have expressed concern about the widespread abuses perpetrated by Yameen and his administration, and called on the Government to restore democratic standards and respect for its international obligations.²⁵

II. Other Politically Motivated Attacks and Murders in the Maldives against Bloggers and Journalists

In the past five years, there have been a number of prominent and widely report-on cases of bloggers and journalists attacked, disappeared, or murdered in the Maldives. In all of these cases, the violent acts have gone largely uninvestigated and unsolved by the Maldivian authorities, despite calls from local journalists, civil society, and the international community.

Ahmed Rilwan

Minivan News journalist Ahmed Rilwan, a good friend of Rasheed, disappeared in August 2014. Shortly before 1:00 am on August 8, 2014, a CCTV camera captured Rilwan boarding the ferry that connected Malé to Hulhumalé – the island he called home.²⁶ According to witnesses, around 2:00 am, Rilwan was forced at knifepoint into a vehicle parked outside his apartment.²⁷ To this day, his whereabouts remain unknown.²⁸ His family believes that his abduction and disappearance were a direct response to his writings about politics and Islamic extremism.²⁹

²⁴ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, “Supreme Court Judgment Gravely Undermines Maldives Human Rights Commission,” June 19, 2015, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16106&LangID=E>.

²⁵ See, e.g., European Parliament resolution of 30 April 2015 on the situation in the Maldives (2015/2662(RSP)), <http://perseus-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/EP-Resolution-on-the-Situation-in-the-Maldives-4.30.2015.pdf>; Letter from the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to President Abdulla Yameen, July 31, 2015, http://perseus-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/20150731_PresYameen_Maldives1.pdf; European Parliament resolution of 17 December 2015 on the situation in the Maldives (2015/3017(RSP)), <http://perseus-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/UPDATED-European-Parliament-Resolution-on-the-Situation-in-the-Maldives.pdf>; U.S. Senate Resolution 392, Mar. 8, 2016, <http://perseus-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/U.S.-Senate-Resolution-Regarding-the-Prosecution-and-Conviction-of-Former-President-Mohamed-Nasheed-Without-Due-Process.pdf>; Letter from U.S. Senators Jack Reed & John McCain to U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry, Apr. 12, 2016, <http://perseus-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Kerry-Maldives-Letter-4.12.16.pdf>.

²⁶ Andrew Buncombe, *Ahmed Rilwan’s Disappearance is a Perfect Illustration of the Maldives’ Ongoing Troubles*, THE INDEPENDENT, Sept. 9, 2014, available at <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/ahmed-rilwans-disappearance-is-a-perfect-illustration-of-the-maldives-ongoing-troubles-9721718.html>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Michael Safi and agencies, *Maldives Blogger Stabbed to Death in Capital*, THE GUARDIAN, Apr. 23, 2017, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/23/maldives-blogger-yameen-rasheed-stabbed-to-death-in-capital>.

²⁹ *Ahmed Rilwan’s Disappearance is a Perfect Illustration*, *supra* note 26.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights immediately expressed concern over Rilwan's disappearance, noting that it was particularly worrying "given that 15 journalists [had] reported receiving death threats through anonymous text messages just in the first week of August."³⁰

While the Maldives Police has said that the investigation into Rilwan's disappearance is "a highly prioritized case,"³¹ Rilwan's family still has no answers. In April 2015, police announced they had a DNA analysis of samples taken from the car used in Rilwan's abduction,³² but all suspects were subsequently released without charge.³³ Reporters Without Borders referred Rilwan's case to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in August 2015,³⁴ and the US Ambassador to the Maldives echoed the call for a credible investigation into Rilwan's disappearance in August 2016.³⁵

Rilwan's family has repeatedly accused police and the Government of negligence in Rilwan's case and supported opposition calls for an independent and impartial investigation into his disappearance.³⁶ In September 2016, the family's accusations were substantiated when *Stealing Paradise*, a documentary produced by *Al Jazeera*'s award-winning investigative unit, revealed evidence suggesting that Yameen had impeded the investigation into Rilwan's disappearance.³⁷

As discussed below, in light of Rasheed's recent murder, a new petition is currently circulating calling for independent investigations in both cases.³⁸

Ismail Khilath Rasheed (aka "Hilath")

Blogger Ismail Khilath Rasheed, popularly known as Hilath, was stabbed and wounded by an unidentified attacker on June 5, 2012.³⁹ Reporters Without Borders, which had previously described Hilath as "one of his country's leading free speech

³⁰ *UN Raises Concern Over Missing Maldivian Journalist*, BUSINESS STANDARD, Aug. 19, 2014, available at http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/un-raises-concern-over-missing-maldivian-journalist-114081901191_1.html.

³¹ *Ahmed Rilwan's Disappearance is a Perfect Illustration*, *supra* note 26.

³² *Journalist's Family Backs Independent Inquiry into Disappearance*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, July 8, 2015, available at <http://maldivesindependent.com/politics/journalists-family-backs-independent-inquiry-into-disappearance-100660>.

³³ *Freedom of the Press 2015: Maldives*, FREEDOM HOUSE, available at <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/maldives>.

³⁴ *Zaheen Rasheed, RSF Refers Case of Missing Maldives Journalist to UN*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, Aug. 31, 2015, available at <http://maldivesindependent.com/politics/rsf-refers-case-of-missing-maldives-journalist-to-un-116898>.

³⁵ *Mohamed Visham, US Calls for 'Credible' Investigation Over Maldives' Missing Journalist*, MIHAARU, Aug. 9, 2016, available at <http://en.mihaaru.com/us-calls-for-credible-investigation-over-maldives-missing-journalist/>.

³⁶ *Journalist's Family Backs Independent Inquiry into Disappearance*, *supra* note 32.

³⁷ *US Calls for 'Credible' Investigation*, *supra* note 35.

³⁸ *Shafaa Hameed, Hundreds Sign Petition Calling for Credible Investigation of Yameen's Murder*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 1, 2017, available at <http://maldivesindependent.com/society/hundreds-sign-petition-calling-for-credible-investigation-of-yameens-murder-130264>.

³⁹ *Maldives Blogger Stabbed to Death in Capital*, *supra* note 28.

advocates,⁴⁰ immediately came out saying that the attack appeared to be targeted at Hilath as a journalist.⁴¹ While the Maldives government condemned the stabbing, its Human Resources and Youth Minister simultaneously implied Hilath was to blame, saying “Hilath must have known that he had become a target of a few extremists . . . We are not a secular country. When you talk about religion there will always be a few people who do not agree.”⁴²

After barely surviving the stabbing, Hilath fled the Maldives later that year. When asked in an interview whether he thought he would ever see justice in his case, he responded: “I have seen some of my attackers behind police lines with media passes during protests in which police brutalized protestors, so I don’t think the government is serious or can prosecute these people . . . I don’t think the Maldives is safe for me anymore and I don’t think the Government will prosecute the attackers.”⁴³

Hilath had good reason to think the Maldives government was not on his side. In November 2011, the Maldives Communications Authority shut down Hilath’s blog, claiming that it contained “anti-Islamic” material.⁴⁴ A month later, on December 10, 2011, Hilath was attacked with stones while peacefully protesting for religious tolerance. The Maldivian government responded not by arresting his attackers, but by arresting him for protesting and detaining him for over three weeks.⁴⁵ During this time, Amnesty International declared Hilath a prisoner of conscience and condemned the Government’s failure to bring the attackers to justice despite photographic evidence.⁴⁶

Afrasheem Ali

Afrasheem Ali, a Maldives Member of Parliament, was murdered in 2012 after his moderate Islamic scholarship provoked the ire of religious hardliners.⁴⁷ Given Ali’s status as an MP, the Government appeared to conduct a major investigation into his murder, but it was not viewed as credible; four suspects were arrested within 24 hours,⁴⁸

⁴⁰ *Journalist Detained, Charges Unclear*, IFEX, Dec. 21, 2011, available at http://www.ifex.org/maldives/2011/12/21/rasheed_detained/.

⁴¹ Roy Greenslade, *Maldives Journalist Stabbed in the Neck*, THE GUARDIAN, June 6, 2012, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/media/greenslade/2012/jun/06/journalist-safety-maldives>.

⁴² *Liberal Blogger Stabbed in the Maldives: Police*, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, June 5, 2012, available at <https://tribune.com.pk/story/389114/liberal-blogger-stabbed-in-the-maldives-police/>.

⁴³ “*I Don’t Think the Maldives is Safe for Me Anymore*” Interview with Ismail Halith Rasheed, Blogger and Human Rights Defender, FIDH, Sept. 17, 2012, available at <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/maldives/I-don-t-think-the-Maldives-is-safe-12184>.

⁴⁴ *The Government Shuts Down Blog in Climate of Growing Religious Intolerance*, REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS, Nov. 23, 2011, available at <https://rsf.org/en/news/government-shuts-down-blog-climate-growing-religious-intolerance>.

⁴⁵ JJ Robinson, *Prominent Blogger Hilath Rasheed in Critical Condition After Stabbing*, MINIVAN NEWS, June 5, 2012, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/HLA_Maldives_HRC105_Annex.pdf.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Maldives Blogger Stabbed to Death in Capital*, *supra* note 28.

⁴⁸ Devirupa Mitra, *Rush to Hang Convict for 2012 Assassination Reopens Political Can of Worms in the Maldives*, THE WIRE, July 1, 2016, available at <https://thewire.in/47545/afasheem-ali-murder-case-political-family-feuds-and-the-death-penalty-in-the-maldives/>.

several of whom seemed to be conveniently selected on the basis of their political opposition.⁴⁹

On June 24, 2016, the Maldives Supreme Court upheld the death sentence for one of the original four suspects in Ali's murder, Hussein Humam. In his trial, Humam denied all guilt, and remarked that Yameen and his closest aide "will know best" the details of the murder.⁵⁰

UN rights experts - Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions; Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers – condemned the trial and sentence: "The implementation of a death sentence following judicial procedures which do not respect the most stringent guarantees of fair trial and due process is unlawful and tantamount to an arbitrary execution."⁵¹

Ibrahim Waheed

In February 2013, Raajje TV reporter Ibrahim Waheed was beaten nearly to death just months after his station's offices had been burned to the ground.⁵² He was left with lifelong injuries including permanent loss of vision in one eye. The attacks on Raajje TV, the only opposition-aligned private television outlet in the Maldives, were condemned by human rights organizations.⁵³ Only one of 18 suspects was formally charged, and he has not yet been brought to trial.⁵⁴

The Government has shown little sympathy for Waheed, arresting him in April 2016 for peacefully demonstrating for freedom of speech.⁵⁵

III. Brief Biography of Yameen Rasheed

Yameen Rasheed, 29, was a prominent blogger, entrepreneur, and human rights defender in the Maldives. Rasheed grew up in India, but moved back to the Maldives in 2010 to work.

⁴⁹ *Four Questioned Over Maldives MP Afrasheem Ali Murder*, BBC NEWS, Oct. 4, 2012, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-19826539>.

⁵⁰ Shafaa Hameed, *Convict Alleges President's Involvement in MP Afrasheem's Murder*, MINIVAN NEWS, Apr. 13, 2015, available at <http://minivannewsarchive.com/politics/murder-convict-alleges-presidents-involvement-in-mp-afrasheems-murder-96219#sthash.Y6p2e0Yi.dpbs>.

⁵¹ *UN Rights Experts Urge Maldives to Halt Execution and Maintain 60 Year-old Unofficial Moratorium*, OHCHR, July 2, 2016, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20222#sthash.X0SDjUmO.dpu>.

⁵² Shafaa Hameed, *Convict Alleges President's Involvement in MP Afrasheem's Murder*, MINIVAN NEWS, Apr. 13, 2015, available at <http://minivannewsarchive.com/politics/murder-convict-alleges-presidents-involvement-in-mp-afrasheems-murder-96219#sthash.Y6p2e0Yi.dpbs>.

⁵³ *Freedom of the Press 2014: Maldives*, FREEDOM HOUSE, available at <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2014/maldives>.

⁵⁴ *Dark Clouds in Maldivian Skies*, THE HINDU BUSINESS LINE, June 24, 2016, available at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/dark-clouds-in-maldivian-skies/article8765099.ece>.

⁵⁵ *Maldives: Press Freedom Protest Dispersed by Police*, BBC NEWS, Apr. 3, 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35954966>.

Rasheed began blogging over ten years ago,⁵⁶ writing under his own name with the username “Yaamyn.” Rasheed began the blog “The Daily Panic” in November 2013 to report on, in his own words, “nothing but the unfiltered truth, the sickening facts, the gruesome details, and – because this is the Maldives – the painfully obvious.”⁵⁷ Referring to mass censorship of journalism in the country, he satirically referred to his blog as the “Maldives’ only news website.”⁵⁸ His writing focused on social justice issues and government incompetence in the Maldives, tackling a broad range of topics. As a Muslim with tolerant views, Rasheed was highly critical of rising extremism in the Maldives and frequently wrote against the spread of radicalization and the impunity of politicians who implicitly support the upsurge. Through his blog, Rasheed gathered a large following of readers,⁵⁹ becoming especially popular among the more liberal populace in the Maldives.

Rasheed was also a social entrepreneur with a vision to serve the Maldivian people, and concrete ideas to harness the powers of humanity and technology. In March 2017, Rasheed and his colleague won a €20,000 prize from Sandoz, a division of Novartis pharmaceuticals, in their inaugural Healthcare Access Challenge for innovative ideas in mobile health.⁶⁰ Their winning proposal was an incentive-based mobile application to encourage blood donations in the Maldives.

IV. History of Persecution Against Yameen Rasheed

As a prominent blogger, Rasheed was no stranger to harassment and intimidation tactics.

Rasheed started receiving death threats on social media as early as December 2011. The following are three threats Rasheed received in just one day on Twitter. All of the threats “tagged” the MPS, meaning that MPS was notified through their Twitter account that the threats had been made.



“@yaamyn the blood of disbelievers like you will be HALAAL for Maldivian Muslims @policemv”*

** Also spelled halaal, in reference to the Islamic law forbidding an object or action. Used here to indicate that the “blood of disbelievers” is not forbidden.*

⁵⁶ See “Slicker Than Your Average” Yaamyn’s Blog, <http://uglyy.blogspot.com/?view=sidebar>.

⁵⁷ *But Why?*, THE DAILY PANIC, <http://thedailypanic.com/about/>.

⁵⁸ THE DAILY PANIC, <http://thedailypanic.com>.

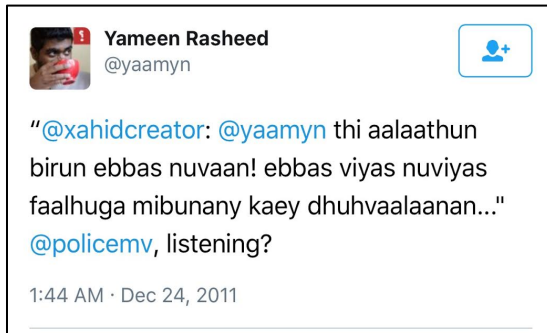
⁵⁹ *Maldives Blogger Stabbed to Death in Capital*, *supra* note 28.

⁶⁰ *Sandoz: It’s Time to HACK Healthcare*, WIRED, Mar. 24, 2017, <http://www.wired.co.uk/article/sandoz-hacking-access-to-healthcare>.



“@yaamyn Hilath was also finished off after informing. This is Maldives! @policemv According to de constitution thank u for protecting muslim Maldivians”*

** Ismail Rasheed, a.k.a. Hilath (discussed above), was attacked in December 2011 for organizing a peaceful demonstration.*



“@xahidcreator: @yaamyn you people fearing to agree! Whether you agree or not, I am saying openly, you will be finished off...” @policemv, listening?”

Rasheed responded to the threats via his social media accounts by sending messages on Twitter to the MPS and Commissioner of Police. After years of receiving threats without any response from the police, Rasheed filed his first formal complaint to the MPS in September 2014. However, even with formal documentation of the threats, the authorities took no action. MPS never met with Rasheed to discuss the threats, and, ultimately, no preventive actions were taken. For months, Rasheed sent public messages on Twitter to the MPS asking for information about his complaint, some of which are captured below, but the MPS was silent:

November 26, 2014:



January 4, 2015:



March 22, 2015:



August 6, 2015:



March 20, 2016:



Rasheed was concerned not only for himself, but also his fellow bloggers and friends. After the disappearance of Ahmed Rilwan in August 2014, Rasheed wrote about the search for his missing friend and the complete lack of response from the authorities.⁶¹

In May 2015, Rasheed was arbitrarily arrested at the scene of an anti-government protest, and detained for 21 days.⁶² Rasheed was charged with “attacking” the police, and given less than one minute to meet with his lawyer before his 7-minute hearing. He was held in deplorable, unhygienic and overcrowded conditions at Dhoonidhoo Island Detention Center for 17 days, then restrained under house arrest for four days.

In the fall of 2016, the number of death threats Rasheed received continued to increase, so he filed another formal complaint with the MPS on December 22, 2016. This time, the complaint was assigned a reference number⁶³ and registered as a threat under Article 122 of the Penal Code. Rasheed attached screenshots of the threats he received on Facebook to the formal complaint. The following is one threat received on Facebook on December 18, 2016:



“Irreligious asshole. You are becoming a real nuisance. Go mess with people you can afford to mess with. Motherfucker, you fuck with us, you will suffer . . .”

Despite registering the threat, MPS continued to do nothing to protect Rasheed, and the threats kept coming.

Rasheed, having discussed the threats with family and friends, decided to take steps in his power to protect himself. He self-censored on Twitter, especially his criticism on radical Islam. He also decided to avoid going out at late hours, and made sure he was accompanied by someone at all times whenever possible.

⁶¹ *The Rilwan Story*, THE DAILY PANIC, Feb. 9, 2015, <http://thedailypanic.com/2015/02/the-rilwan-story/>.

⁶² *Dhoonidhoo Diaries: Part 1 – Arrest and Incarceration*, THE DAILY PANIC, June 29, 2015, <http://thedailypanic.com/2015/06/dhoonidhoo-diaries-part-1-arrest-and-incarceration/>; *Dhoonidhoo Diaries: Part 2 – Prison Cell*, THE DAILY PANIC, July 18, 2015, <http://thedailypanic.com/2015/07/dhoonidhoo-diaries-part-2-prison-cell/>; *Dhoonidhoo Diaries: Part 3 – Heat and Captivity*, THE DAILY PANIC, Aug. 22, 2015, <http://thedailypanic.com/2015/08/dhoonidhoo-diaries-part-3-heat-and-captivity/>.

⁶³ Reference No. 341474.

V. Murder of Yameen Rasheed

On April 23, 2017, Rasheed was found unconscious from severe blood loss in the stairwell of his apartment in Malé, Maldives at approximately 2:50 am. He was rushed to Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Malé in a police car rather than an ambulance, where he was pronounced dead at 3:40 am. While initial public reports say Rasheed suffered 14 stab wounds, the number was actually 35 according to his family. Additionally, his throat was slit and part of his skull was missing. At the scene of his murder, the police prohibited anyone from taking photographs, and the walls were quickly cleaned and repainted. Police did not even search the building after they arrived at the crime scene. There are no known witnesses to Rasheed's murder.

At present, the identity of the perpetrators is unknown. At a press conference on April 25, 2017, the Assistant Commissioner of Police claimed that the MPS was able to identify two assailants caught on security camera footage.⁶⁴ However, a few days later, the MPS informed Rasheed's family that they could not actually identify the perpetrators because they were wearing wigs.

On May 1, 2017, an individual was arrested near Rasheed's residence.⁶⁵ Although the police have not said anything publicly, media reported that he was arrested in relation to Rasheed's murder. On May 3, 2017, a second suspect was arrested; the suspect is reportedly "an employee of a state company."⁶⁶ On May 9, 2017, the police announced that four more suspects have been arrested.⁶⁷

The results of any other investigation by the authorities taking place, if any, are unknown. The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives released a public statement on its Twitter account after Rasheed's murder calling on the public "to refrain from actions that would further aggravate the family's grief, and to not obstruct the investigation and to cooperate with the investigators."⁶⁸ Many have interpreted this statement as another example of the Maldivian authorities' attempts to silence its critics, and have noted that the statement is tone-deaf to legitimate concerns about the credibility and thoroughness of any MPS investigation.

⁶⁴ *Yameen Rasheed's Assailants Identified: Police*, PSM NEWS, Apr. 25, 2017, <http://psmnews.mv/en/news/23155-yameen-rasheeds-assailants-identified-police>.

⁶⁵ Ahmed Naish, *Yameen Murder Suspect in Custody*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 1, 2017, <http://maldivesindependent.com/crime-2/yameen-murder-suspect-in-custody-130278>.

⁶⁶ Fathimath Shaahunaaz, *Police Arrest Second Suspect in Yameen Rasheed Murder*, MIHAARU, May 3, 2017, <http://en.mihaaru.com/police-arrest-second-suspect-in-yameen-rasheed-murder/>.

⁶⁷ Shafaa Hameed, *Four More Suspects Arrested Over Yameen's Murder*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 9, 2017, <http://maldivesindependent.com/crime-2/four-more-suspects-arrested-over-yameens-murder-130447>; Maldives Police Service Press Statement: Progress Made in the Investigation of Mr. Yameen Rasheed's Homicide, PMC/2017/12, May 9, 2017, available at <https://twitter.com/PoliceMv/status/861908175439577088>.

⁶⁸ Press Statement, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE MALDIVES, Apr. 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/hrcmv/status/856099079952007169/photo/1> (in Dhivehi).

As mentioned above, a petition is currently circulating calling for independent investigations in both Rasheed and Ahmed Rilwan's cases.⁶⁹

On May 2, 2017, Rasheed's father attempted to submit 800+ letters signed by individuals calling for a prompt investigation into Rasheed's murder, but the MPS refused the letters and instructed Rasheed's father to remove them from the police station.⁷⁰

On May 3, 2017, Rasheed's family filed a civil suit at the Civil Court of Maldives against the MPS for negligence in failing to investigate the reported death threats or provide protection to Rasheed. The complaint cites Maldivian Constitution Article 244 obligations that the police "protect and secure all people in the Maldives" and investigate crimes,⁷¹ which are reiterated in the Police Act.⁷²

A public demonstration, "Justice for Yameen Rasheed," was held on Monday, May 8, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, outside the office of the Maldivian High Commission.⁷³

VI. Select Statements from the International Community

On May 9, 2017, UN Special Rapporteurs on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (David Kaye), Human Rights Defenders (Michel Forst), and Freedom of Religion or Belief (Ahmed Shaheed) issued a call for the Maldives government to allow for a "thorough and independent public inquiry" into Rasheed's murder:

We strongly condemn the killing of Mr. Rasheed and we urge the Government of the Maldives to take action now to promote and protect the rights of their people to express their views freely...

We recognize that authorities have initiated an investigation into the murder of Mr. Rasheed, leading to the arrest of two individuals. Nonetheless, in light of the extreme seriousness of the attack, we urge a thorough and independent public inquiry to take place bringing to bear all of the resources of law enforcement and focusing on his murder and the disappearance of Ahmed Rilwan....⁷⁴

⁶⁹ Shafaa Hameed, *Hundreds Sign Petition Calling for Credible Investigation of Yameen's Murder*, MALDIVES INDEPENDENT, May 1, 2017, available at <http://maldivesindependent.com/society/hundreds-sign-petition-calling-for-credible-investigation-of-yameens-murder-130264>.

⁷⁰ *Murdered Blogger: Police Reject Letters Calling for Independent Probe*, VNEWS, May 2, 2017, <http://www.vnews.mv/83171>.

⁷¹ Constitution of the Maldives (2008), Article 244 (Police Service).

⁷² Maldives Police Act (Law No. 05/2008), Section 6 (Responsibilities of Police) & 7 (Duties of Police).

⁷³ *Solidarity Protest Calling for Justice for Slain Maldivian Blogger, Yameen Rasheed in Colombo*, SRI LANKA BRIEF, May 4, 2017, <http://sri.lankabrief.org/2017/05/solidarity-protest-calling-for-justice-for-slain-maldivian-blogger-yameen-rasheed-in-colombo/>.

⁷⁴ *The Maldives Must Investigate Murder of Journalist Yameen Rasheed and Hold Those Responsible to Account*, OHCHR, May 9, 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21597&LangID=E>.

Additionally, the following select statements have been made by other UN officials, foreign government representatives, and international human rights organizations.

Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:

We are deeply alarmed by Mr. Rasheed's killing and urge the authorities to ensure that the investigation into the murder is prompt, thorough and that the perpetrators are brought to justice in line with international human rights laws and standards.

Mr. Rasheed's killing comes in the context of what appears to be an upsurge in arrests and prosecutions of the political opposition.⁷⁵

David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression:

murder of #yameenrasheed came in deteriorating envmt for free expression in #Maldives.⁷⁶

Shoko Noda, UN Resident Coordinator to the Maldives:


Appalled by the horrifying murder of renowned blogger & HR defender @yaamyn. Tolerance & diversity of ideas are imperative for any democracy⁷⁷

United Nations in the Maldives:

We condemn heinous act of violence against @yaamyn & freedom of speech. Impunity must be stopped via timely transparent investigation⁷⁸

RC @shokonoda met @Policemv to stress need for thorough, impartial investigation of @yaamyn case & strengthen response mechanisms to threats⁷⁹

Atul Keshap, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives:

Heartfelt condolences to family & friends of @yaamyn, who passionately believed in #FreedomOfSpeech and #HumanRights for ALL in #Maldives ⁸⁰

⁷⁵ Press Briefing on South Sudan and Maldives, OHCHR, Apr. 25, 2017, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21527&LangID=E>.

⁷⁶ Tweet by David Kaye (@davidakaye), Apr. 24, 2017, <https://twitter.com/davidakaye/status/856548795798048768>.

⁷⁷ Tweet by Shoko Noda (@shokonoda), Apr. 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/shokonoda/status/856072742562484224>.

⁷⁸ Tweet by UN Maldives (@UNMaldives), Apr. 23, 2017, <https://twitter.com/UNMaldives/status/856074636773085184>.

⁷⁹ Tweet by UN Maldives (@UNMaldives), Apr. 27, 2017, <https://twitter.com/UNMaldives/status/857540117275189248>.

⁸⁰ Tweet by Ambassador Atul Keshap (@USAmbKeshap), Apr. 22, 2017, <https://twitter.com/USAmbKeshap/status/856033816863014912>.

Spokesperson for the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

Yameen Rasheed was an active blogger and prominent human rights defender, as well as a promoter of democracy, the freedom of speech and a tolerant society. The European Union expects the Maldivian authorities to accord high priority to a thorough investigation of his brutal murder in order to bring the perpetrator(s) of this heinous crime to justice.⁸¹

Amnesty International:

Maldives authorities must immediately investigate the brutal killing of an online activist today and bring those responsible to justice.⁸²

Transparency International:

Human rights advocate + blogger brutally murdered in #Maldives. RT to call for full investigation and justice!⁸³

⁸¹ Statement by the Spokesperson on the Murder of Yameen Rasheed in the Maldives (European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy), Apr. 25, 2017, https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/25025/statement-spokesperson-murder-yameen-rasheed-maldives_en.

⁸² *Maldives: Killing of Popular Blogger an Attack on Freedom of Expression*, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, Apr. 23, 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/04/maldives-killing-of-popular-blogger-an-attack-on-freedom-of-expression/>.

⁸³ Tweet by Transparency International (@anticorruption), Apr. 24, 2017, <https://twitter.com/anticorruption/status/856443041724420096>.