

# MALDIVIAN REBELS

## Press Release

### Campaign against police brutality, state-sponsored terrorism and tyranny of the Gayoom regime

MALE', 22 January 2005 - The Maldivian Rebels condemns the recent acts of violence and intimidation carried out through out the Maldives by the armed forces, police and thugs sponsored by the ruling regime.

In Fares-Maathoda a helpless population was brutally manhandled by the police. The use of sophisticated weapons and dart injection against the people of Fares-Maathoda not only shows the brutality of the police forces but their complete disregard for basic human rights.

In Addu, thugs loyal to Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) orchestrated violence against the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). The police and armed forces used excessive force against the population of Addu while an MDP office was occupied and an MP was attacked by the police.

In Male' thugs funded and protected by the regime stabbed a leading local activist of MDP in a fight that we believe was politically motivated. Houses of MDP leaders are becoming targets of attacks by goons hired by the regime.

We believe these acts of state-sponsored terrorism are occurring because Dictator Gayoom has realized that his party stands to lose in a free and fair election. He has come to the point where he could no longer tolerate the growth of opposition or criticism against his regime despite the fact that he needs to fool the international community with the illusion of reform.

The thugs who are becoming increasingly reckless in their activities in Male' are funded and protected by Gayoom's brother and Minister of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security Abdulla Yameen and Commissioner of Police Adam Zahir. They are alleged to run drug dealing operations for both Yameen and Zahir.

The Police Commissioner, who is a former hippie and primary teacher, is believed to be profiting handsomely from heroin selling while the young generation is wasted as addicts. Now he is unleashing the drug dealers under his control against the opposition movement.

Take for example Chika, a street kid who was just a nobody a few years back. Today he owns a van, a fleet of Gulf Craft launches, a shop in Maaveyo Magu of Male', a motorcycle and presumably a fat bank account. It is thugs like Chika, controlled by Yameen and Adam Zahir, who are behind the violence in Male'.

Gayoom has always kept Adam Zahir at the helm of the police force to create fear and to crush any opposition. Today, we must rise up against these instruments of fear.

We are beginning a campaign against police brutality, state-sponsored terrorism and tyranny of the Gayoom regime. The text and materials that we use as part of this campaign could be printed on banners, t-shirts or made as posters. Newspapers and websites are encouraged to use them. We also encourage you to use them as graffiti on public walls such as the seawall around Male'. Artists and graphic designers are encouraged to design their own artwork to complement this campaign.

We welcome the decision of MDP to have a demonstration calling for the resignation of Adam Zahir and to free political prisoners. We believe that revolution of the people is the answer to the scores of problems in Maldives.

## Introduction to Campaign Materials

### RESIST

Resist also happen to be the name of our newsletter. People must be encouraged to resist the tyranny of the ruling regime and rise up against oppression.

### STOP POLICE BRUTALITY

"Stop Police Brutality" were the words on a t-shirt worn by Jennifer Latheef on 20 September 2003 when the population of Male' displayed their revulsion over the brutal killing of Eavan Naseem and shooting in Maafushi jail. Jennifer has been sentenced in 2005, in a grossly unfair trial, to 10



