



Australian High Commission Colombo

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 3 March 2015

Statement on the Maldives

The Australian Government notes with concern the recent civil unrest in the Maldives following the arrest on 22 February 2015 of the opposition figure and former President Mohamed Nasheed.

Australia encourages all parties to exercise restraint, act in accordance with the rule of law, and resolve differences peacefully.

The Australian High Commissioner to the Maldives has registered Australia's interest in the case with the Maldivian Government and we continue to monitor developments closely.

As members of the Commonwealth, Australia and the Maldives share important democratic values, including free speech and the right of opposition groups to participate fully in the democratic process.

As a fellow Indian Ocean country and Commonwealth member Australia has a keen interest in supporting peace, rule of law and democracy in the Maldives.

The Australian High Commission encourages Australians in the Maldives to monitor the travel advice on [Smartraveller](#).