

Transparency Maldives condemns the obstruction of the functioning of the People's Majilis by the security forces.

Transparency Maldives strongly condemns the deliberate obstruction of the functioning of the People's Majilis by the security forces on Monday, 24 July 2017, ahead of a key no confidence vote against the Speaker.

On Monday morning, the gates of the parliament were locked and MPs were prevented from entering the parliament by the security forces, an unprecedented measure in the Maldives.

Transparency Maldives stresses on the importance of separation of powers and functioning of democratic institutions as per the Constitution of the Maldives. In this regard, the lawful functioning of the parliament must not be obstructed to serve short term political ends.

The siege of the parliament, the use of force to remove MPs from the premises of the parliament, the continued harassment of opposition MPs and the coercion of key democratic institutions by the government undermines separation of powers and erodes public confidence in key democratic institutions.

We strongly urge the authorities to immediately cease the harassment of opposition MPs and to allow the normal functioning of the parliament to resume.

Furthermore, Transparency Maldives notes with concern the continued suppression of the right to peaceful assembly and media freedom. Just a day ahead of the no confidence motion against the Speaker, the Maldives Broadcasting Commission announced that media outlets would be penalised for coverage of public gatherings not permitted by the authorities. Transparency Maldives reminds and calls on independent institutions to act within the law and to guarantee the rights prescribed under the Constitution and international treaties ratified by the Maldives.

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