



Staff and volunteers of Transparency Maldives were arrested on 8 August 2017, after Maldives Police Service pepper sprayed and used excessive force, at a peaceful march to mark three years to the abduction of journalist and human rights activist Ahmed Rilwan. The march, organized by Rilwan's family, friends and civil society organisations, began from Hulhumale' Ferry Terminal, the place where Rilwan was last seen, and continued on until police barricaded the path of the protest. The Police then indiscriminately pepper sprayed protesters, used excessive force and confiscated the placards. Nine protesters, including two staff and a volunteer from Transparency Maldives.

They were released four hours later with no charges.

We call on the government of Maldives to ensure that citizens are afforded the right to peaceful assembly as stipulated in the Constitution of Maldives. We also call on the state to ensure justice to the family of abducted journalist Ahmed Rilwan.

The international community must increase pressure on the Maldivian Government to cease restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms stipulated in the Constitution of the Maldives. We also call on the international community to continue to demand justice for abducted journalist, Ahmed Rilwan and the murdered blogger and human rights activist, Yameen Rasheed.