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**Differences of opinion should not be met with calls for violence and damage to property**

Transparency Maldives (TM) expresses concern regarding recent developments in the Maldives that encourage and call for violence, damage to property, and inhumane treatment. Human rights are inherent to every person and are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives and the treaties and conventions that the Maldives is signatory to. We urge State authorities including the Maldives Police Service and independent institutions to investigate and prosecute such individuals.

Freedom of expression, right to life, and protection from inhumane treatment are rights inherent and guaranteed to each person. Preventing calls to damage property and inhumane treatment during differences of opinion is a prerequisite to establishing a society that respects human rights. At a time individuals' actions are undermining human rights, TM also calls on the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives to prevent such actions and safeguard human rights.