



With regard to granting Former VP Ahmed Adeb medical leave abroad

We, the family of Ahmed Rilwan Abdulla, are deeply concerned and dismayed by the statements made by the coalition politicians calling for the former Vice President Ahmed Adeb to be sent abroad for medical treatment for his eye condition. Ahmed Adeb is an individual who must be questioned and investigated in relation to the enforced disappearance of Rilwan. Information revealed previously suggests that Ahmed Adeb has links with individuals suspected to have been involved in Rilwan's abduction. Therefore, in the case of a renewed investigation into the matter, it is highly likely that Ahmed Adeb may flee in order to evade questioning. Additionally, Ahmed Adeb is alleged to have been involved in grand scale corruption cases which have caused irreparable damage to the Maldivian people. If he is granted permission to travel abroad, we believe that it presents him with an opportunity to flee and not return to the country.

Without a doubt, the state must provide appropriate and timely medical treatment to each and every individual held in detention. We call on the authorities to provide medical treatment for those detainees who have been denied timely medical attention so far. It is also necessary for the relevant transitional committees to establish a system where detainees will be provided with medical treatment in a fair manner. With regard to dangerous criminals who have medical conditions that cannot

be treated with the current healthcare facilities in the country, it is important for the state to ensure that the appropriate medical treatment be made available to them by bringing in the necessary equipment and personnel from abroad. If such dangerous criminals are allowed to travel abroad and thus be given the opportunity to flee, then the government must take full responsibility for this oversight.

Our history shows several instances where detainees who have held senior political posts have travelled abroad for medical treatment and did not return. It is also extremely saddening to note that political leaders of the coalition government are among those calling for Ahmed Adeb to be sent abroad for medical treatment. We note that allowing such an action would hinder the election promise made by the coalition government to investigate the enforced disappearance of Ahmed Rilwan and bring all those responsible to justice. At a time where the number of human rights violations in the Maldives are at a record high, it is important to note that this opportunity to bring about a positive political change must be taken with the right steps as we head toward the path of justice. Therefore, we call on the coalition government to not give an individual, alleged to have encroached on the rights of many, the opportunity to flee.

**On behalf of the family of Ahmed Rilwan
Fathimath Shehenaz**

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