

Quotes and highlights of President Nasheed's Press Briefing

31 August 2012

Male' Maldives

- President Mohamed Nasheed today gave a press conference to respond to the final report of the Commission of National Inquiry (CoNI), released yesterday.
- President Nasheed repeatedly expressed his deep gratitude to the efforts of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) and the Commonwealth Special Envoy, Sir. Don McKinnon, for the pressure they brought to reform and strengthen the CoNI, after it was initially established with three members, all with affiliations to the current government, chaired by President Gayoom's former Defence Minister.
- For this reason, even though President Nasheed had previously demanded a full international Commission, made up of international human rights experts, it finally agreed to the compromise put forward by Sir Donald. President Nasheed therefore expressed his willingness to work with the reformed CoNI, and has engaged fully and honestly with it.
- In today's press conference, President Nasheed said "I accept the report with the reservations cited by Mr. Ahmed Saeed prior to his resignation from the Commission" stating that he will further comment on the transfer of power only after CMAG deliberations. He also said "Before his resignation, Saeed cited irregularities and reservations. We respect his reasons and call upon CMAG to deliberate on these"
- Speaking on his message to the international community President NASheed said "we have an awkward situation. Toppling a government is now accepted as long as it comes with an 'appropriate' narrative. I still believe CoNI has set a precedent away from the simplicity of using ballots to change a government."
- He highlighted the wrongdoings identified in the report. He said the report is largely about the wrongdoings by the police and military and that it must be investigated immediately. He said "all parties agreed to abide by the findings of the report and I call on them to immediately implement the recommendations" Additionally, he said "I have sent a letter requesting the Hulhumale Court to expedite the case lodged against me. I call for all identified wrongdoing to be investigated."
- "Many international organizations have called for all to honor the findings of the report. Prior to its publication the MDP proposals to the findings of the commission. These were;

- “CoNI’s outcome is one of the 3 scenarios that MDPs proposal highlighted on. If wrongdoings were found in any circumstance the Party called for early elections, removal from office, prosecution and international community’s involvement in the process”

1) If the Commission of National Inquiry (CoNI)'s report identifies wrongdoing/criminal violations on the part of any individual, the MDP proposes for:

- *All parties to agree to early elections*
- *Remove those identified to have violated the law, from their positions*
- *Ensure all those identified are sentenced and brought to justice*
- *Court proceedings related to findings of report to be finished within one month*
- *All procedures to be carried out in the presence of Commonwealth and International observers*

2) If the CoNI's report finds that the transfer of power on 7 February was unconstitutional, the MDP proposes for:

- *Reinstatement of former government*

3) If the CoNI's report finds that the 7 February transfer of power was lawful and no criminal acts were committed by any parties, the MDP proposes for:

- *Presidential elections to be held in 2013*

- “CoNI’s report highlighted immediate steps be taken to increase effectiveness of the police, police integrity commission, Human Rights Commission, Judicial Service Commission and the Parliament. Of all these, the most crucial is to reform of police and the military. Perpetrators of police brutality/ acts of intimidation must be held accountable.”
- Reiterating his call for early elections, President NAsheed said “the report itself states the popularity of my government can only be established after an election. Therefore we will continue to call for early elections”
- When asked for a comment on the ongoing demonstrations and about people being arrested for calling police and regime officials “baagee” (traitor) he said, “if you want to keep arresting everyone with an opinion that says very little about your democratic credentials. Peaceful political activity will continue,[The CoNI] report is not the end of the line.”

