

Press Release

1 May 2015

Re: May Day Rally

We are privileged the invitation by organisers for civil society to participate in the May Day rally, and assure the people that MDN will be active in **conducting an observer mission** throughout the May Day activities in the Maldives. **This observer mission by MDN will be joined by international observers** and findings will be shared with the public.

MDN applauds the efforts by organisers to engage the public in exercising their fundamental rights, and call upon them to ensure a peaceful event.

We implore upon the relevant state institutions to be vigilant in ensuring the rights of the people are protected and respected, and that the state acts in accordance with the law number 1/2013 (Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Law), especially the sections 17, 18 and 20, and to **make necessary interventions where required**.

We call upon the Maldives Police Service to uphold the Constitution of the Maldives and to **respect the fundamental right to assembly and expression as broadly as possible as stated in the law**.

ENDS·