

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



## Standing Committee on Human Rights and Gender People's Majlis

### Press Statement

The standing committee of the People's Majlis on Human Rights and Gender is appalled and thus, condemns the use of an image depicting cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment analogous to punishment of the aforementioned nature by the Chief Judge of the Criminal Court Uz. Ahmed Hailam in a greeting card posted on the occasion of Victory Day in a social network group on November 3, 2019.

Article 2(c) of the Anti-Torture Act 12/2103 recognises that every human is entitled to inherent dignity of the human person, to respect that dignity at all times and that the dignity of every human person is entitled to the protection of the law. This guarantee is synonymous with the constitutional right of every person to be protected from the degradation of his/her inherent dignity. Further, Article 9 (a) defines torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment as acts of physical and psychological pain purposefully inflicted by a state official or upon notification from a state official, whereby making it obligatory upon state office bearers to desist from any conduct that encourages or promotes any form of violation of the non-derogable right to the freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment.

The picture posted by the Chief Judge Uz. Ahmed Hailam, depicts the Victory Day hero, Martyr Hussain Adam dragging political figures including the President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and the Speaker of the Parliament, President Mohamed Nasheed and those convicted for the November 3, 1988 terror attack by a chain locked around their necks as an act of punishment and torture. This act of flagrant misconduct by Chief Judge is also a violation of the principles of article 3 of the UN Convention against Torture and Cruel Inhuman Degrading Treatment and Punishment Maldives is party to, calling upon states to take measures to prevent such acts instigated by a state official or those acting on behalf of a statesperson.

Hence, the committee is unanimous in its view that the conduct of Chief Judge of the Criminal Court is a violation of human dignity as it unequivocally encourages cruel and inhuman degrading treatment.

-End-

9 November 2019

