

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 29/008/2005

31 October 2005

Further Information on UA 273/05 (ASA 29/007/2005, 19 October 2005) Medical concern/Legal concern/Prisoner of conscience

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Jennifer Latheef (f), aged 32

Amnesty International has learned that Jennifer Latheef is being detained in Maafushi Prison on an island 18 miles south of the capital, Malé. She is serving a 10-year sentence, handed down on 18 October 2005, on charges of "terrorism", after protesting against deaths in prison and political repression.

Jennifer Latheef is reportedly not being given regular access to the medication which she needs to take daily to regulate her blood sugar, and allegedly has no access to clean water. Amnesty International is concerned that her health could deteriorate due to the unsanitary conditions at Maafushi Prison and the withholding of her regular medication.

Jennifer Latheef is the daughter of a leading Maldivian politician and government critic in exile. Her harassment is believed to be a ploy by the government to silence her father. Amnesty International considers Jennifer Latheef to be a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for exercising her right to peaceful protest.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Jennifer Latheef is being held in Maafushi Prison, where she reportedly has no access to clean water and is not always given the medication she needs daily to regulate her blood sugar;
- calling for her to be given immediate medical treatment for her condition for as long as necessary to reach a complete recovery;
- calling on the President to release Jennifer Latheef immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising her right to peaceful protest;
- calling for her to be given regular and immediate access to her family and her lawyer.

APPEALS TO:

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
The President's Office
Mulee-aage, Henvairu
Medhuziyaaraiy Magu
Malé 20-05
Republic of Maldives

Fax: + 960 3325500 (It may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

Salutation: Dear President Gayoom

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Republic of Maldives accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 December 2005.