

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 29/02/00

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Further information on UA 04/00 (ASA 29/01/00, 6 January 2000) - Arbitrary detention / Fear of torture

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES Umar Jamal]  
Ibrahim Ahmed Maniku] parliamentary candidates  
Abdul Rasheed]

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Ibrahim Ahmed Maniku and Abdul Rasheed were released from house arrest in February 2000.

A court reportedly fined each of them the equivalent of about eight US dollars and warned them not to engage in further political campaigning activities.

The well-known politician and parliamentary candidate Umar Jamal has now been transferred from Dhoonidhoo detention centre to house arrest. No charges have yet been brought against him. Amnesty International is continuing to campaign for his immediate and unconditional release from any kind of detention.

The three parliamentary candidates were detained in the run up to last November's elections for campaigning against candidates associated with the government. All were tortured in detention and the organization is currently trying to get more information about their well-being.

Some 28 other prisoners arrested in the context of parliamentary election campaigns in the run up to last November's elections have also now been released.

Messages received by Amnesty International indicate that appeals on behalf of these three men played a crucial role in securing the release of Ibrahim Ahmed Maniku and Abdul Rasheed's release from house arrest and Umar Jamal's transfer from Dhoonidhoo detention centre to house arrest.

**No more appeals are required from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**