

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 29/002/2001

28 August 2001

Further information on UA 190/01 (ASA 29/001/2001, 27 July 2001) -
"Disappearance"/Prisoner of Conscience

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVESAbdulla Shakir [m], MP for Male' Atoll

Member of parliament Abdulla Shakir, who was arrested on 18 July, is now known to have been held for several days at Male' police station on "unspecified civil grounds". He was eventually released unconditionally.

Abdulla Shakir is the member of parliament for Male' Atoll. Amnesty International believes he may have been arrested because he signed a petition requesting permission to set up a political party. At present the government of the Maldives does not allow any political parties to operate. The petition was handed over to the Minister of Home Affairs on 28 February. There were fears that others who signed the petition might also be arrested but there have been no reports of further arrests.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.