



English translation of the press statement made by the family of forcefully disappeared journalist Ahmed Rilwan Abdulla

August 8 will mark four years since the abduction and disappearance of our brother Ahmed Rilwan Abdulla.

Yet, we are no closer to establishing the truth of his fate, even if he is dead or alive, while the perpetrators of this heinous crime continue to walk free.

The criminal court's verdict on August 2 - in which Judge Adam Arif acquitted the three men accused of carrying out Rilwan's abduction after citing serious lapses in the police investigation and prosecution's case - only confirms what we have said from day one; the police investigation in this case was a farce.

This unsatisfactory conclusion clearly indicates at a minimum, state complicity, and at worst, active involvement in Rilwan's abduction and disappearance, which has devastating implications for public safety and the rule of law.

In the light of Judge Adam Arif's ruling, we reiterate our call for a transparent, impartial and international investigation into Rilwan's abduction and disappearance, one that also identifies those in positions of authority who

were involved in the cover-up and their reasons for doing so.

We intend to sue the Maldives Police Service for negligence, and urge the People's Majlis to do its part and establish which state officials were involved in the obstruction of justice for Rilwan, and ensure that lawful action is taken against all those who participated in this crime.

Tomorrow, we will take to the streets of Male at 4:00pm to protest this grave injustice, and we invite everyone to join our call for a proper investigation and a fair trial for Rilwan.

We stand in solidarity with the families of those who have lost their loved ones to violent crime in the Maldives, including the family of murdered blogger and Rilwan's close friend, Yameen Rasheed.

We will continue to push for justice for our brother for as long as it takes.

**On behalf of the family of Ahmed Rilwan
Fathimath Shehenaz**

7th August 2018

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