



## Regarding the Press Conference by the Commission Investigating Deaths and Disappearances

### PRESS STATEMENT

We listened to the Commission reveal the surrounding facts behind our brother, Ahmed Rilwan Abdulla's forced disappearance, with grave sorrow and discontent. Members of the Commission met with the family before disclosing its findings to the public. We urge the authorities to take action against individuals indicated by the Commission. Furthermore, to credibly investigate those who planned and financed his forced disappearance, closing all doors that could lead to them to flee the country by prosecuting them in a court of law. Rilwan's family believes government officials implicated in derailing and obstructing the police investigation should be made subject to the law.

We also request the authorities to provide security for our family, the members and employees of the Commission, witnesses, and others receiving threats from violent groups.

As a family, for the past five years, we were forced to confront high-level officials accused of enabling perpetrators, or acting negligently, while having information about a planned abduction. Endeavouring to get justice for Rilwan has taken an immeasurable toll on the family. Ordinary families are not equipped to handle such a tragedy, but we decided to face this to prevent the possibility of another family suffering the same experience.

Each day without justice for Rilwan, further reveals that the Maldivian State is incapable of ensuring safety for anyone living in the Maldives.

2 September 2019

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