

3. Special Rapporteur on Truth Justice and Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

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on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-  
recurrence and WG on Arbitrary detention  
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**Statement by Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed,  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

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Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives welcomes the report of Mr. Pablo de Greiff, Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence and commends his work during the past year. The Maldives understands the challenges faced by Mr. Greiff in the execution of his mandate and urges all states to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur.

In places where gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law have occurred, establishing accountability measures and restoring faith in state institutions can be a difficult and a lengthy process. As a start perpetrators of past violations should be prosecuted and justice should be ensured to all victims, assisting in the overall healing process. Gross and systemic violations of human rights and International humanitarian law should not be ignored and measures should be taken to ensure its non-occurrence. It is upon this premise that the Maldives decided to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in 2011.

Madam President,

The Maldives recognises the importance of developing a prosecutorial prioritising strategy as a focalizing tool in addressing past violations for a country in transition as stated in Mr. Grieff's report. The Maldives hence would like to request the Special Rapporteur to provide examples or best practices if any, where such strategies have been successful in exposing the structures or networks responsible for past human rights and humanitarian law violations.

Madam. President,

The Maldives also welcomes the report of the Working group on arbitrary detention.

Arbitrarily arresting and detaining a person is a complete violation of their right to liberty. The Maldives condemns and abhors such acts and calls upon all states to comply with their International human rights obligations when arresting and detaining people. The constitution of the Maldives has clear provisions against unlawful and arbitrary detention, mandating law enforcement officers to follow due process when arresting people in connection to a crime. However, there have been sad instances where laws have been completely disregarded such as during the arbitrary arrest and detention of a sitting judge in early 2012.

However, the current administration's highest priority is to protect and uphold the rule of law and the respect for separation of powers, which forms the very basis of the democratic process in a country.

Once again, the Maldives would like to thank both the Special Rapporteur and the Working group for their tremendous work and wish them well in the continuation of their mandates.

I thank you Madam President.