



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**23rd Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
“in light of the terrorist attacks and human rights abuses and violations
committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram”
1 April 2015, Geneva**

**Statement by Ms. Geela Ali, Minister / Chargé d’ affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, the Maldives wishes to express its appreciation to the African Group for requesting that the Human Rights Council convene to discuss the atrocious human rights abuses and violations committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram. The Maldives joins other delegations in expressing its concern due to the increasing number of human rights abuses committed by Boko Haram and condemns their atrocities in the strongest terms.

The Maldives has always stood against all acts of terrorism, and in this regard appreciates the efforts of the African Union in this fight against the terrorist activities of Boko Haram, which is threatening the peace, security and stability in the region. The Maldives also stands in solidarity with the families of the 200 and more girls abducted by Boko Haram, one year ago in April 2014 from a school in Borno, Nigeria.

The inhumane activities of Boko Haram have been ongoing since 2009. In the past year, there has been an escalation of attacks, including deadly attacks, which took the lives of many civilians including in Chad, Cameroon and Niger, as well as Nigeria where its atrocities go beyond. Boko Haram’s continuous violence has resulted in numerous deaths, injuries, and destruction of property which has perpetuated killings, torture, rape, beatings, arbitrary detention, mistreatment of detainees, and widespread societal violence including those related to ethnic, regional, and religious issues. The Maldives condemns any human rights violations that are committed in the name of religion.

Mr. President

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The Maldives calls on Governments to investigate this and prosecute all those responsible for human rights violations. The Maldives also strongly urges for immediate measures to be taken to ensure the safety, security, and protection of civilians.-The Maldives further calls on all States faced with the threat of Boko Haram to address the issues at all international fora and seek assistance to halt all terrorist activities. Simultaneously, its imperative that the international community provide all assistance to the region to protect themselves from such terrorist activities.

The Maldives, therefore, calls upon the international community to take appropriate measures against these horrific human rights violations committed by Boko Haram and for Boko Haram to cease its violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law by ending its onslaught of killings and attacks.

The Maldives also supports the resolution, and calls on all parties to engage constructively for the implementation of the resolution.

I thank you Mr. President