

Statement by
His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the
United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced
Disappearances
51st Session of the Human Rights Council
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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances for their commitment to the mandate and for the comprehensive report.

Mr. President,

Enforced disappearances not only affects the victims and their families; it impacts communities and the society as a whole. Ensuring justice for victims of enforced disappearances and their families is a priority for the government of the Maldives.

In 2018, a Presidential Commission on Investigation of Murders and Enforced Disappearances was established for the purpose of upholding the State's responsibility in ensuring justice for all by conducting independent inquiries into unresolved cases of murders and enforced disappearances. While details of the cases were periodically shared with the families of the victims, foreign experts were brought in to widen the investigations. Several pieces of evidence were also sent abroad for analysis.

The Government is committed to preventing reprisals, harassment and targeted acts of intimidation against journalists, civil society actors and human rights advocates. The Maldives Police Service remains committed to the protection of the rights and safety of all persons.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to also reaffirm our support for the mandate of the Working Group and thank the Working Group for having worked closely with our National Commission on Enforced Disappearances. We look forward to continuing this relationship with the Working Group.

I thank you.