

## [Maldives: Briefing paper on the situation of human rights defenders](#)

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(Geneva) - The Republic of the Maldives is scheduled to be reviewed at the 22nd session of the Universal Periodic Review in April 2015.

ISHR and civil society in the Maldives are gravely concerned about the increasing number of restrictions that hinder civil liberties such as freedom of expression, religion and assembly in the country. This represents a significant backslide in the progress made towards democratisation and human rights protection in the country, which the State must be encouraged to reverse when it comes up for review next year.

Human rights defenders that advocate for rights such as freedom of religion as well as rights within religion are particularly vulnerable in the Maldives, whilst journalists are hindered by both official restrictions and threats to their person.

Key recommendations that should be made to the Maldives at the UPR in 2015 include that the Government should develop and implement specific laws to recognise and protect the work of human rights defenders and journalists.

This [Briefing Paper on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#) in the Maldives is intended to assist States and other stakeholders to formulate questions and recommendations regarding the protection of human rights defenders during the UPR.

For further information about the Briefing Paper or for any assistance or advice in the formulation of recommendations, please contact ISHR's Pooja Patel, on [p.patel@ishr.ch](mailto:p.patel@ishr.ch).

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