



## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE MALDIVES

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

<b>DATE:</b> 22nd February 2013	<b>TIME:</b> 22:00hrs - 02:00hrs	<b>PLACES MONITORED:</b> Usfasgandu; Majeedhee Magu; Fareedhee Magu-in front of Nalahiya Hotel; Orchid Magu-in front of Salsa Royal Restaurant; Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu Junction-in front of Seagull Café House; Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction; Sosun Magu; ADK Hospital				
<i>* The information below is an account of the events observed by the HRCM Teams at the times and places specified and, not an expansive overview of the whole protest.</i>						
TIMELINE	DISPERSION	ARRESTS/ INETRVIIEWS/ USE OF FORCE	VIOLENCE/ PHYSICAL HARM	WEAPONS	LANGUAGE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
22:00 - 23:00				<p><b>* At 22:57: Orchid Magu- in front of Salsa Royal Restaurant:</b> More than 30 MNDF officers on alert carrying protective shields, some officers were carrying batons while other officers batons were holstered. An officer was carrying a Fire Extinguisher and another officer was carrying a bunch of plastic clips.</p>	<p>* The protesters were using degrading words and calling out to "hang" specific political persons.</p>	<p><b>* At 22:00:</b> Around 1500 protesters started the protest march from Usfasgandu to Ameenee Magu to Majeedhee Magu towards Fareedhee Magu- in front of Nalahiya Hotel. * A Police Jeep and a lorry carrying SO Police officers were seen, following the protesters from Usfasgandu as the protesters started the march.</p>

<p>23:00 - 00:00</p>	<p><b>* <u>At 23:33 Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu Junction (near Seagull Café House):</u></b> Police warned that the protest would not be considered peaceful if they exploded 'bottle bombs' and that they might have to disperse the crowd.</p>		<p><b>* <u>At 23:33 Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu Junction (near Seagull Café House)::</u></b> A loud bang was heard from within the protesters. <b>* <u>At 23:47:</u></b> A 'bottle bomb' was thrown at the Police, it hit their shields fell in front of them and blew up, smoke was detected.</p>	<p><b>* <u>At 23:07: Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu Junction (near Seagull Café House):</u></b> Around 13 police in riot gear carrying shields and batons.</p>	<p>* The protesters were using degrading words and calling out to "hang" specific political persons.</p>	<p><b>* <u>At 23:07:</u></b> protesters split into two; women protesters came from Majeedhee Magu-Chaandhanee Magu and to Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu junction near Seagull Cafe' House; the men came from from Kenery Magu towards Chaandhanee Magu-Fareedhee Magu junction near Seagull Cafe' House. <b>* <u>At 23:50:</u></b> MDP protesters said that the 'bottle bomb' wasn't thrown by the protesters but from supporters (spies) of other political parties.</p>
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<p>00:00 - 01:00</p>	<p><b>* At 00:45 Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction:</b> Police gave warning to Protesters to leave the area as reporters and police officers were getting injured. * Around 20 Police Officers were getting ready to disperse the crowd. * <b>At 00:47:</b> Police gave another warning to leave the area. * <b>At 00:49:</b> Police gave the last warning to the protesters to leave the area instantly and that there won't be any further warnings given. * <b>At 00:51:</b> Police officers were given the command to move towards the crowd, officers with Shields were following as well. * <b>At 00:55:</b> Police gave warning to Protesters in Sosun Magu to leave the area.</p>	<p><b>* At 00:41: Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction:</b> Police in riot gear went into the crowd and arrested one protester from Sosun Magu-Roashanee Magu Junction. * No injuries were noticed. * A protester was arrested from Sosun Magu. * <b>At 00:51: Sosun Magu:</b> One protester was arrested.</p>	<p><b>* At 00:15: Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction:</b> Glass bottle was thrown towards a Police officer by the protesters which hit his head. * <b>At 00:39:</b> Women protesters who were near the police barricade threw 'Paint Thinner' towards the media personnel. * Two female reporters of TVM were hurt. They said that it was stinging. * They were rushed to IGMH by the Police. * <b>At 00:41:</b> A glass bottle was thrown at the Police by the Protesters as they were arresting a protester from Sosun Magu-Roashanee Magu Junction; a police officer was injured. * <b>At 00:55:</b> A laser light beam was aimed at the Police who were near Sosun Magu DHL building.</p>	<p><b>* At 00:15: Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction:</b> More than 30 Police seen in riot gear near Majeedhiyya School gate and in Abadhahfehi Magu. Batons were seen and a police officer carrying 1 fire extinguisher was seen. Two police vehicles were parked near Majeedhiyya School gate though the front lights were turned on. * <b>At 00:45:</b> The police officers who were getting ready to disperse the crowds were wearing helmets and some were carrying the batons while others had their batons strapped to their knee guard.</p>	<p>* The protesters were using degrading words and calling out to "hang" specific political persons.</p>	<p><b>* At 00:15: Sosun Magu-Medhuziyaarai Magu Junction:</b> Around 6-8 Police officers went into the crowd to get the two barricades which were pulled by the protesters prior to the HRCM team arrival. A lot of glass pieces which were shattered prior to HRCM team arrival were seen on Medhuziyaarai Magu. * <b>At 00:51:</b> Police personnel asked the reporters to stay a little further from the Police line.</p>
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01:00 - 02:00	<p><b>* At 01:00 Sosun Magu:</b> Police gave a warning to Protesters as well as other people who were lingering at the scene to watch what was happening. <b>* At 01:16:</b> Protesters were pushed back by Police to Majeedhee Magu.</p>				<p>* The protesters were using degrading words and calling out to "hang" specific political persons.</p>	<p><b>* At 01:15 Sosun Magu:</b> Around 500 protesters were still near DHL building. <b>* At 01:30:</b> Protesters were in front of ADK Hospital. <b>* At 01:35:</b> A lot of people were gathered near the reception area in ADK Hospital. <b>* At 01:40:</b> Asked the ADK staff at the front office desk whether anyone from the protests was brought to the hospital for treatment. The staff informed the HRCM team that he was only allowed to provide such information only to the police. <b>* ADK Hospital:</b> 1 reporter was brought to ADK with multiple head injuries. <b>* IGM Hospital:</b> 3 people were brought last night, among which; 2 reporters were brought due to coming in contact with a chemical substance; the other person was admitted due to alleged assault by the Police, he had to get stiches as there was a 0.5cm cut on his cheek.</p>
02:00 - 03:00						