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## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives is deeply concerned about the multiple and serious threats to a journalist in connection to an article published on Dhauru news outlet on 6th of April 2023. The Commission condemns these threats with concern and calls on authorities to conduct swift and thorough investigations on this matter.

Journalists, so as everyone within the Maldivian jurisdiction, have the Constitutional right to freedom of thought, and the freedom to communicate opinions and expression, in a manner that is not contrary to any tenet of Islam or Islamic Shari'ah. Unfortunately, in exercising these rights and freedoms, often journalists face harassment, violence and death threats.

The Commission acknowledges the vital role that journalists play in maintaining free flow of accurate information to the public. Journalists should be guaranteed special protection in order for them to produce and disseminate information without facing physical or moral threats. We urge the public and authorities to work together in guaranteeing the freedom of expression and opinion, to its fullest extent as prescribed by the Constitution of the Maldives.

