

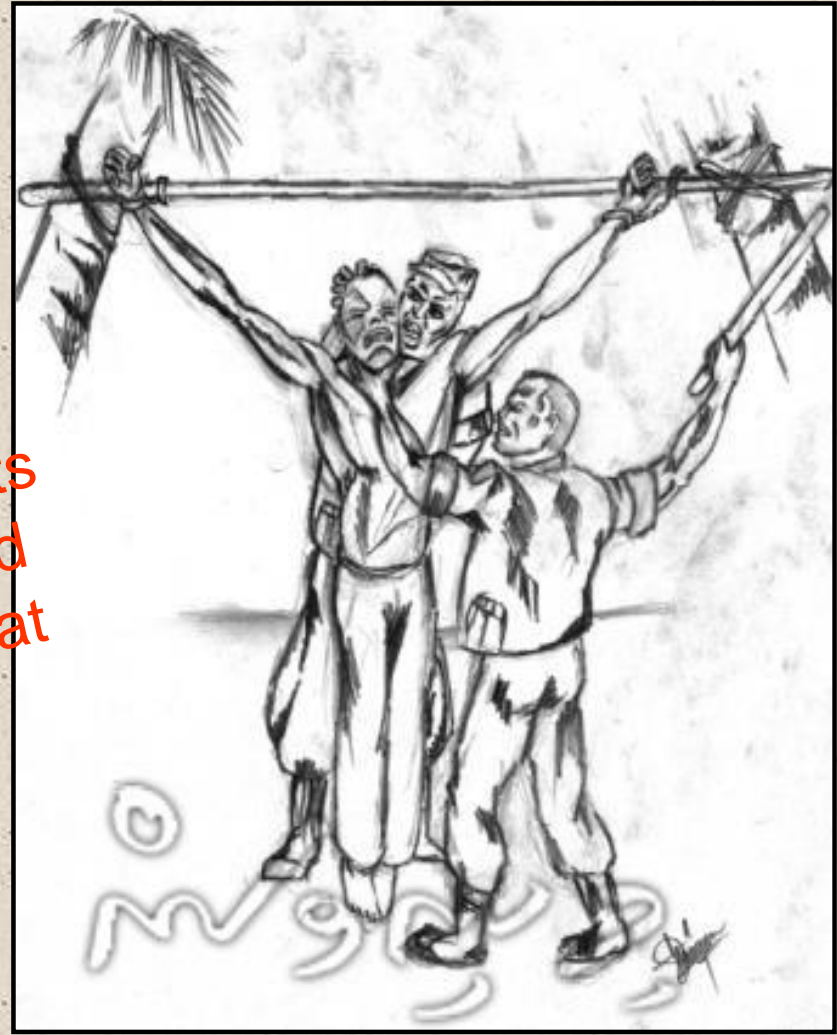
police reform initiatives

**Human Rights Association of Maldives (HRCM)
And
Native Operators on Rights (NOOR)**

**23/24 March 2007/ Delhi – Commonwealth Human Rights
Initiative**

political context and policing concerns

Reports of gross human rights abuses including torture and murder have been leveled at police



In 2003 April

Assistant Base

Commander in Maafushi
Prison compiled a
detailed report of the
torture that was being
exercised by the police
officers.

. The report was sent to the
heads of sections and the
president.

No officer who was listed in
the report was
questioned,

Aswan was suspended.



On 9/19 police killed a 19yr prisoner in
maafushi jail







The beating broke his 7th rib and struck his lungs. He died of oxygen failure.



Burning cigarettes
were stubbed on
him



5 prisoners shot dead in prison.



A sub police station on fire and a police vehicle burnt down. Gates of telecommunication building

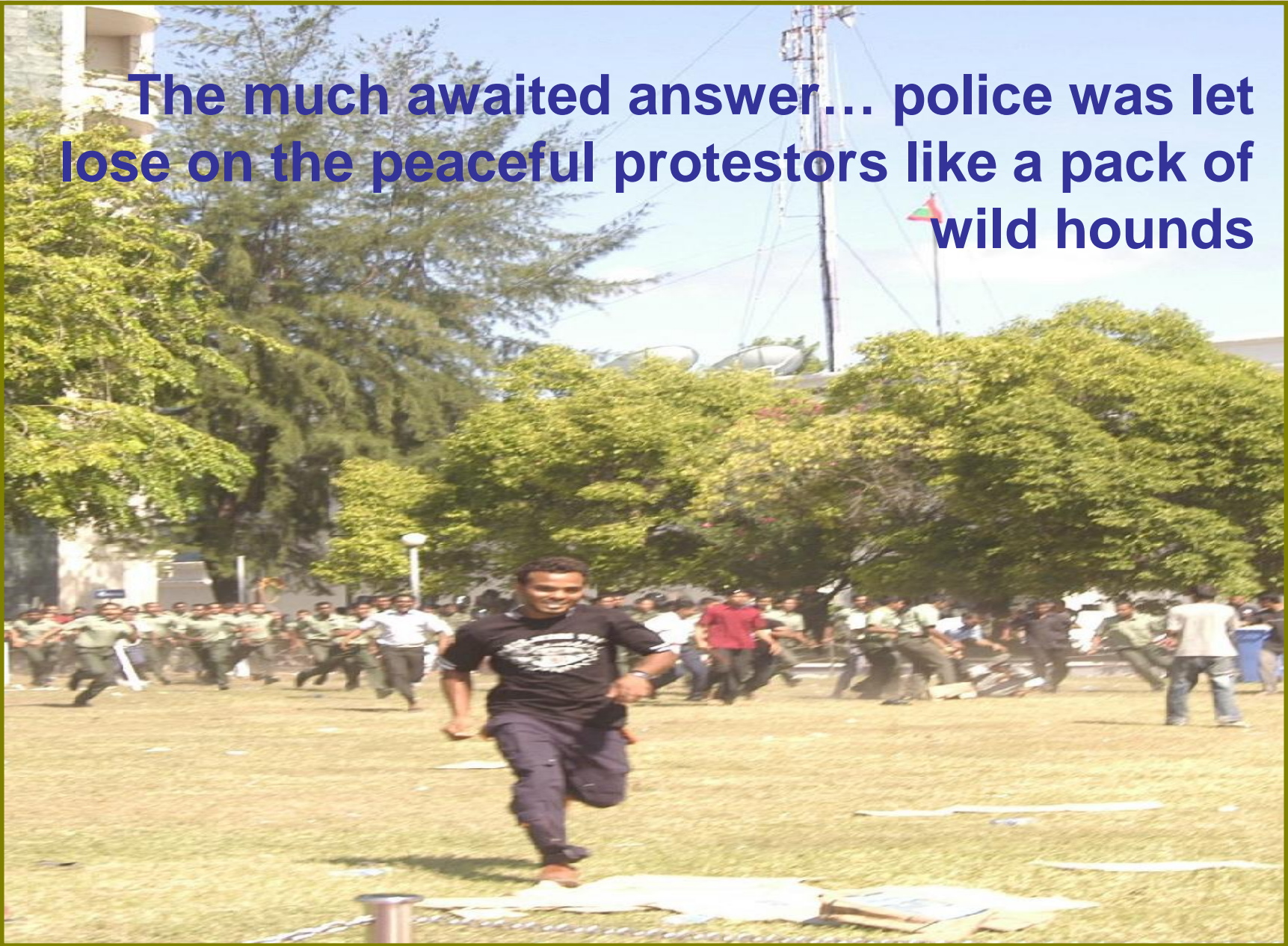


14th August 2004

people call for police reform and more



**The much awaited answer... police was let
lose on the peaceful protestors like a pack of
wild hounds**



protestors ran for life



It was madness.

the whole island was in a military siege



International condemnations

- Police actions during demonstrations attracted condemnation by Human Rights Organizations for the heavy handed and brutal tactics adapted in suppressing reform.
- Amnesty International and many international HR organizations
- European Union
- British Government
- Commonwealth
- And many more
- Condemned the human rights violation of the Maldives and continuously called for reform.

background

- President Gayoom has been in power for 28 years
- He is the head of the executive
- He is Head of judiciary
- He is Chief commander of police
- He is Head of Religious activities
- He Controls the parliament with 8 appointed seats
- He Controls the Human Rights Commission by appointing its members
- June 05 political parties were legally recognized.
- He formed his own party
- Without an election his party rules
- In March 2006 the government published a road map for the reform agenda and subsequently introduced several bills to the parliament. None of the bills were passed by the end of the year.

Power of Human Rights Commission

- Allows prison visits and detention facilities unannounced.
- Investigate allegations against police torture.
- Dismissal and house arrest of police officers if they fail to comply with HRC summons and demands for information.

an irresponsible HRC

- No prison visits have been carried out unannounced.



No cases of police brutality has been filed by HRC

Minor ↓



Mentally challenged ↑

2 yrs on, HRC fails to publish report on prison death.

*‘My son’s body was
With sand, all his body
hair had been shaved,
his head was snapped
backwards and his
neck was broken”*

*Muaviath’s
Mother painfully recounts*



Muaviath Mahmood

Police integrity commission

- In response to criticisms from International Community for lack of mechanism for accountability Police integrity Commission was established.
- Members were appointed by the president who is the head of police. The members are mostly inexperienced people

Mysterious Police Integrity Commission

The commission has never convened and everything about it is a mystery. No cases have been reported, and no one knows where to report either.



Gov not sincere in establishing PIC

- The opposition proposed a revised PIC adapted from mainly commonwealth, UK and new south Wales best practices. Gov shows non responsiveness.



Maumoon



Nasheed

proposed police act



MP Maria, strongly argued and proposed serious revisions.

President has absolute control over police.

Provides for police integrity commission but is silent on who qualifies for the commission.

Police uniform as reform

- On 1/9/04 police which was a paramilitary unit became a civil authority in writing and in uniform



the star force, terror in blue fatigues

- renounced for its criminality, particularly violent assaults against people
- Their actions drive the people to believe them to be the private militia and the vigilante group of president gayoom
- and the police commissioner



It is claimed that drugs were given to the star force members that resulted aggressive hyper active behavoiur







Reform in name and uniform again

- The name has once again changed from the Star Force to Special Operations.
- The threatening blue fatigues is expected to be changed to the blue plain.



reform in police syllabus

- An 18 hour Human Rights component have been incorporated in the police training.
- A 5 hour crash course have been conducted to all the police officers.

Barrier for reform

