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## **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

29 June 2015

Dear Mr. Chakma,

I would like to thank you for the letter dated 26 June 2015 by the Asian Centre for Human Rights concerning the ruling of the Supreme Court of the Maldives against five members of the Human Rights Commission on the unlawfulness of the written submission of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) to the Second Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

National human rights institutions play a pivotal role in independently monitoring and protecting human rights. The imposition of restrictions on the HRCM for its engagement, in particular, with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms is unacceptable. In this regard, I have also taken due note of the related statements of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and of Special Procedures mandate-holders.

Let me also take the opportunity to assure you that I have been closely following this case with a view to ensuring that the Commission can cooperate with the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and procedures without being subjected to intimidation or reprisals. I have raised this matter in the Human Rights Council on 26 June 2015, and had previously discussed it at a Bureau meeting with the Vice-Presidents. Furthermore and in the margins of the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council (March 2015), I have raised the issue also directly with H. E. Ms. Dunya Maumoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, expressing my concerns.

Please rest assured that I will continue to closely follow this case, continue the dialogue with the Government of the Maldives, as Member State of the Human Rights Council, and stand ready to take appropriate actions within my mandate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joachim Ruecker".

Joachim Ruecker

President of the Human Rights Council



To: Mr. Suhas Chakma, Director  
Asian Centre for Human Rights