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PRESS STATEMENT

Call to shut down RaajjeTV is concerning, was done to clear obstacles for the ruling party to continue its unlawful activities

Raajje Television condemns the statements made by Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM)'s deputy leader, Abdul Raheem Abdullah, in a press conference held in the Party's main office on February 4, 2018.

At this press conference the esteemed deputy leader, who also serves as the Parliament representative for Fonadhoo Constituency, called on the security forces to close down **RaajjeTV**, immediately. This was a warning to **RaajjeTV**, and all journalists.

Right to freedom of speech is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Maldives, laws and international treaties which the Maldives is party to. However, the call to shut down **RaajjeTV** is regressive, and alien to democracy and democratic values.

RaajjeTV has always worked in accordance with laws and procedures. The work being carried out by the station, at the time of the warning, is covering the status of the nation, at this critical time and juncture, as it happens and without a break. Our priority has always been to bring both sides of a story to our viewers.

In spite of this, we have been accused of creating dissent and promoting sedition in the country. Calling to shut down **RaajjeTV**, for bringing the words of the opposition including former President Mohamed Nasheed, is unacceptable.

A free and independent media is a key aspect of holding the Government accountable. **RaajjeTV** views the call by the ruling party to shut down our station as an attempt to clear obstacles for them to conduct their unlawful affairs, as they please.

RaajjeTV calls on the ruling party to cease their actions in hampering free media, right to information and freedom of expression. We also call on institutions and international parties to hold the Government accountable in their actions to prevent such liberties.

Ends

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