



## Islamic Foundation's view about the apostate

Islamic Foundation of the Maldives is extremely concerned that a certain Maldivian rejected Islam and declared himself a non-Muslim at the question and answer session opened after the lecture by Dr. Zakir Naik on 28 May 2010. In addition to his rejection of Islam, he questioned Dr. Zakir Naik about the verdict in Islam on the people who abandon the faith (apostates).

As we know that since time immemorial all the Maldivians have adopted Islam as their religion. The aforementioned declaration by this individual has shaken the very foundation of religious unity among the people of Maldives. Further, it is mentioned in Article 9 (d) of the Constitution of Maldives that no individual can be a citizen of this country unless he is a Muslim. Hence, if the mentioned individual refuses to repent and continues in the state of non-belief, Islamic Foundation calls on the relevant authorities to annul his Maldivian citizenship.

Also it is further mentioned in Article 142 of the Constitution of Maldives which states, "The Judges are independent, and subject only to the Constitution and the law. When deciding matters on which the Constitution or the law is silent, Judges must consider Islamic Shari'ah. In the performance of their judicial functions, Judges must apply the Constitution and the law impartially and without fear, favour or prejudice."

Based on the above mentioned article, Islamic Foundation holds the view that those Maldivians who declare themselves as apostates must be judged according to Islamic *Sharia* (law).

Therefore, IFM urgently requests the Commissioner of Police to probe into the matter and send the findings to the office of the Prosecutor General. IFM calls on the Prosecutor General to verify the matter and hand it over to the Criminal Court.

If the above mentioned apostate refuses to repent after being given a chance to do so, then, based on Islamic *Sharia* and the Constitution of Maldives, IFM calls on the judges to sentence him to death and demand the state authorities to implement the death penalty on this person (as a deterrent for further cases of apostasy).

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