

Statement by Mr. Ahmed Saeed, President Mohamed Nasheed's Nominee to the Commission of National Inquiry (CoNI)

Information as per 29 August 2012.

"I have tried very hard to identify the material facts relating to the circumstances surrounding the transfer of power on 7 February. However, having made my concerns known to the other members of CONI, my conscience no longer permits me to carry on associating myself with work that has failed to make the effort required to establish the relevant facts. Below are some of my key concerns in this regard."

1. CONI has continued to rely primarily on the evidence gathered by the original three members, and the reconstituted CONI has not reviewed that material despite serious inconsistencies in it in relation to crucial events, eg. The timing of the takeover of MNBC, the State broadcaster.
2. CONI has failed to gather substantive evidence of Police "activities" in certain areas such as MDP Haruge and MNBC. No one from the serving SO (of those allegedly involved in the 'events') was interviewed or came forward to share information on the role they played in these "activities". CoNI has not been able to 'summon' ANY alleged perpetrators or 'culprits'.
3. CONI has not been able to identify firm evidence or proof of crucial incidents relating to President Mohamed Nasheed whilst he was inside the MNDF headquarters.
4. CONI has not been able to access crucial evidence from security cameras. The Police have not been able to provide any CCTV footage from any of their cameras; none has been made available from the President's Office; only 3 out of 8 CCTV cameras in and around MNDF have been provided and these have some crucial hours of footage missing; and in the case of MNBC, there is no footage prior to 10:47 am on 7 February.
5. We have not had sufficient time to view, discuss and analyze videos and footage as a full commission, given that key members of the Commission had to be away for a total of 31 days.

6. CONI was not able to obtain evidence or reports from institutions entrusted with investigative authority. Eg. The Police Integrity Commission (PIC) is yet to publish or share its findings with CONI. The HRCM report does not focus on specific areas of concern to CONI.
7. We have not had adequate time to work together as a team, towards a conclusion.
8. Our work has been marred by the failure of certain witnesses to recall vital information and inability to (re)summon key individuals.
9. CONI has not been given investigative powers to thoroughly probe accusations.
10. CONI has been unable to access and analyse 'key' individuals' bank transactions
11. CONI has not been able to access phone/sms intercepts, logs or records