



June 10, 2024

The Honorable Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed
Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives
1100 H St NW Suite 250
Washington, D.C.

Amb. Mohamed,

We are writing to you to express our shock and indignation, and that of the American Jewish Congress, at the decision by your Government to target Israeli citizens and single them out for the complex situation and war in Gaza and Israel. This condemnable order by Mohamed Muizzu, the President of the Republic of Maldives, to deny entry to tourists and visitors who hold the passport of the State of Israel, is discriminatory and hateful and will embolden Maldivian extremists and terrorists who have [already attacked British, Australian and other tourists](#) and threaten your status as the nation with the [highest GDP per capita in all of South Asia](#).

This antisemitic travel ban is particularly vile and despicable considering that the number of Israeli tourists visiting Maldives is trivial and Israelis prefer to take their business to multiple other tourist destinations across Asia and the Middle East that welcome them. It is unacceptable to weaponize your tourism sector to target ordinary Israelis and punish them because you disagree with policies and actions of an Israeli government. The abrupt announcement likely inconvenienced and probably endangered the lives of Israeli citizens who were [visiting your country](#) and could have exposed them to derision and attacks. Will your next order single out Jews? Will you target Americans and Europeans next? Should Christians start worrying about visiting your country?

This decision worsens Maldives' reputation as an emerging bastion of a virulent strain of Islamist extremism that will further scare away tourists. You are isolated even among moderate Arab and Muslim states that have turned their backs on this kind of fanaticism. Last year, the United States [designated](#) Maldivian citizens for terror-related activities, describing them as 'leaders and financial facilitators of ISIS and al-Qaeda cells.' And this year, you have repatriated [Maldivian members of ISIS terror organization](#) from the border of Turkey-Syria to your country, raising concerns about radicalization and violence in Maldivian society.

Maldives is on the wrong side of history. The war in Gaza that the terror organization Hamas and Iran started will end. An integrated Middle East will see normalization and economic cooperation. But Israel, the Jewish people, and good people everywhere will remember this hateful and discriminatory action by the Government of the Maldives. American and Western tourists will think twice before landing in a country where politically motivated abrupt orders can threaten their safety without warning.

We support bipartisan efforts to introduce legislation to condition American aid to Maldives on repealing this antisemitic travel ban and strongly identify with remarks by Rep. Josh Gottheimer who described this action by the Maldives “as nothing but a blatant act of Jew hatred” and that “they should not get a cent of American dollars or a single US tourist until they reverse course.”

The American Jewish Congress is committed to alerting tourism and business entities across Asia and globally - including in the United States - about the escalating dangers of extremism and terrorism in the Maldives, following the recent measures taken by your Government.

Most Sincerely,

Daniel Rosen

Daniel Rosen
President

Jack Rosen

Jack Rosen
Chairman

Munir Kazmir

Dr. Munir Kazmir
Vice President