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AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
ON THE
TRANSFER OF PRISONERS

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Maldives ("the Parties");

Desiring to facilitate the successful rehabilitation of prisoners into society; and

Considering that this objective should be fulfilled by giving foreigners who are deprived of their liberty as a result of their commission of a criminal offence the opportunity to serve their sentences within their own society;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I
Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- a) 'judgment' means, a decision or order of a court or tribunal imposing a sentence;

- b) 'national' means, in relation to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, a citizen of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and in relation to the Republic of Maldives, a citizen of the Republic of Maldives;
- c) 'prisoner' means, a person who is for the time being detained in prison, a hospital or any other institution by virtue of an order of conviction of a criminal offence by a competent court or tribunal of the transferring State, in the course of exercise of its criminal jurisdiction,
- d) 'receiving State' means, the State to which the prisoner may be, or has been, transferred in order to serve his sentence;
- e) 'sentence' means, any punishment or measure involving deprivation of liberty ordered by a court or tribunal for a limited or unlimited period of time on account of a criminal offence;
- f) 'transferring State' means, the State in which the sentence was imposed on the person who may be, or has been, transferred.

Article 2

General Principles

1. A person sentenced in the territory of one Party may be transferred to the territory of the other Party in accordance with the provisions of

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this Agreement in order to serve the sentence imposed on him. To that end:

- a) Either the Transferring State or the Receiving State may initiate transfer proceedings.
- b) The prisoner may initiate the process by communicating his interests of transfer to any competent authority of the transferring state, in accordance with the applicable law.

Article 3

Conditions for Transfer

1. A prisoner may be transferred under this Agreement only on the following conditions, namely that:-
 - a) the prisoner is a national of the receiving State;
 - b) the judgment is final or the prisoner has waived any rights of appeal;
 - c) at the time of receipt of the request for transfer, the prisoner still has at least six months of the sentence to serve or the sentence is indeterminate;
 - d) consent to the transfer is given by the prisoner or, where in view of his age or physical or mental condition either Party

considers it necessary, by a person authorized to act on his behalf;

- e) the acts or omissions on account of which the sentence has been imposed constitute a criminal offence according to the law of the receiving State or would constitute a criminal offence if committed on its territory; and
- f) the transferring and receiving State agree to the transfer.

Article 4

Obligation to Furnish Information

1. Any prisoner to whom this Agreement may apply shall be informed by the transferring State of the substance of this Agreement.
2. Where the process of transfer of a prisoner is initiated by any party stated in article 2 of this Agreement or if an interest to be transferred is expressed by any prisoner to whom this agreement applies, the transferring state shall inform the Receiving State as soon practicable after the judgment becomes final.
3. The information shall include:
 - a) the name, date and place of birth of the prisoner;

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- b) his address, if any, in the receiving State;
- c) a statement of the facts upon which the sentence was based;
- d) the nature, duration and date of commencement of the sentence.

4. If the prisoner has expressed his interest to the receiving State, the transferring State shall, on request, communicate to that State the information referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.
5. The prisoner shall be informed, in writing, of any action taken by the transferring State or the receiving State under the preceding paragraphs as well as of any decision taken by either State on a request for transfer.

Article 5 **Requests and Replies**

1. Requests for transfer and replies shall be made in writing.
2. Requests shall be addressed by the relevant authority of requesting State to the relevant authority of the requested State. Replies shall be communicated through the same channels.
3. For the purposes of paragraph 2 of this Article, the relevant authority shall be, in relation to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,

the Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms and in relation to the Republic of Maldives, the Ministry of Home Affairs.

4. The requested State shall promptly inform the requesting State of its decision whether or not to agree to the requested transfer.

Article 6

Supporting Documents

1. The receiving State, if requested by the transferring State, shall furnish it with the following documents:
 - a) a copy of the relevant law of the receiving State which provided that the acts or omissions on account of which the sentence has been imposed the transferring State constitute a criminal offence according to the law of the receiving State or would constitute a criminal offence if committed on its territory;
 - b) a statement of the effect in relation to the prisoner of any law or regulation relating to his detention in the receiving State after his transfer.
2. If a transfer is requested, the transferring State shall provide the following documents to the receiving State, unless either State has already indicated that it will not agree to the transfer:

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- a) a certified copy of the judgment and the law on which it is based;
- b) a statement indicating how much of the sentence has already been served, including information of any pre-trial detention, remission, and any other factor relevant to the enforcement of the sentence;
- c) a declaration containing the consent to the transfer referred to in Article 3.1(d); and
- d) whenever appropriate, any medical or social reports on the prisoner, information about his treatment in the transferring State and any recommendation for his further treatment in the receiving State.

3. Either State may ask to be provided with any of the documents or statements referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 above of this Article before making a request for transfer or taking a decision on whether or not to agree to the transfer.

Article 7

Consent and its Verification

1. The transferring State shall ensure that the person required to give consent to the transfer in accordance with Article 3.1(d) does so voluntarily and with full knowledge of the legal consequences thereof.

The procedure for giving such consent shall be governed by the law of the transferring State.

2. The transferring State shall afford an opportunity to the receiving State to verify through a Consul or other official agreed upon with the receiving State that the consent is given in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 8

Effect of Transfer for Transferring State

1. The taking into charge of the prisoner by the authorities of the receiving State shall have the effect of suspending the enforcement of the sentence in the transferring State.
2. The transferring State may no longer enforce the sentence if the receiving State considers enforcement of the sentence to have been completed.

Article 9

Effect of Transfer for Receiving State

1. The competent authority of the receiving State shall continue enforcement of the sentence immediately without further order through a judicial or administrative order as provided for by the law of the receiving State, under the conditions set out in Article 10 below.

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2. The enforcement of the sentence shall be governed by the law of the receiving State and that State alone shall be competent to take all appropriate decisions.

Article 10

Continued Enforcement

1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, the receiving State shall be bound by the legal nature and duration of the sentence as determined by the transferring State.
2. If, however, this sentence is by its nature or duration incompatible with the law of the receiving State, or its law so requires, that State may, by a court or administrative order, adapt the sanction to the punishment or measure prescribed by its own law for a similar offence. As to its nature, the punishment or measure shall as far as possible correspond with that imposed by the sentence to be enforced. It shall not aggravate by its nature or duration the sanction imposed in the transferring State nor exceed the maximum prescribed by the law of the receiving State.

Article 11

Pardon, Amnesty, Commutation

1. Either Party may grant amnesty or commutation of sentence in accordance with its Constitution or other laws. The prisoner shall be

entitled to the benefit of any remission of sentence of imprisonment which he may have become entitled to on the date of his transfer in the transferring country.

2. Unless the transferring and receiving States agree otherwise, the transferring State alone may grant pardon in accordance with its Constitution or other laws.

Article 12

Review of Judgment

The transferring State alone shall have the rights to decide on any application for review of the judgment.

Article 13

Termination of Enforcement

The receiving State shall terminate enforcement of the sentence as soon as it is informed by the transferring State of any decision or measure as a result of which the sentence ceases to be enforceable.

Article 14

Information on Enforcement

The receiving State shall provide information to the transferring State concerning the enforcement of the sentence:

- a) when it considers enforcement of the sentence to have been completed;
- b) if the prisoner has escaped from custody before enforcement of the sentence has been completed; or
- c) if the transferring State requests a special report.

Article 15

Transit

If either Party enters into arrangements for the transfer of prisoners with any third State, the other Party shall co-operate in facilitating the transit through its territory of prisoners being transferred pursuant to such arrangements. The Party intending to make such a transfer will give advance notice to the other Party of such transit.

Article 16

Costs

Any costs incurred in the application of this Agreement shall be borne by the receiving State, except costs incurred exclusively in the territory of the transferring State. The receiving State may, however, seek to recover all or part of the cost of transfer from the prisoner.

Article 17

Temporal Application

This Agreement shall be applicable to the enforcement of sentences imposed either before or after its entry into force.

Article 18

Final Provisions

1. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date on which instruments of ratification are exchanged.
2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving notice to the other. In that event the Agreement shall cease to have effect three months after the date of receipt of the notice.
3. Amendments to this Agreement shall be effected by mutual agreement through diplomatic channels.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Colombo on this 12th day of February in the year 2008 in the English language.


Rohitha Bogollagama M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka


Abdulla Shahid
Minister of Foreign Affairs
For the Government of the
Republic of Maldives