



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

December 2024  
Key Highlights

**Maldives Showcases Tourism and Culture at Washington, DC's Diplomatic Festival**



*05 December 2024, Washington, DC;* The Embassy of the Maldives participated in the 11th Winternational Embassy Showcase at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, in an interview with the organizers, highlighted the significance of the U.S. market for Maldivian tourism. He noted that the United States ranks as the seventh-largest source of visitors to the Maldives. "We are delighted to debut Maldives in



this prestigious annual festival of Washington, DC and to see such enthusiasm for travel and tourism. It was a pleasure to share a glimpse of Maldivian tourism and culture here in Washington, DC."

The Maldives' booth featured cultural highlights, including Kasabu Libaas, the handwoven traditional attire worn by Maldivian women. Visitors were provided with information about the intricate craftsmanship behind the dress, particularly the handwoven neckline, which showcases the country's rich textile heritage. The booth also featured Bodu Beru, Maldivian drums that are central to the country's music and cultural identity.



In addition, products of Maldivian lacquerwork, known as *Liyelaa Jehun*, were on display, offering a glimpse into the craftsmanship. Both *Kasabu Libaas* and *Liyelaa Jehun* highlighted the artistry and skill of Maldivian craftsmanship that has been passed down through generations.



A special feature of the stall allowed attendees to have their names written in Dhivehi, the Maldivian script, on postcards to take home as souvenirs.

Information about tourism in the Maldives, along with travel tips for U.S. citizens and travelers visiting from the U.S., was also available.

The event attracted over 10,000 visitors and featured 69 embassies. This is was the first time the Embassy of Maldives participated, following its opening in June 2023.



## Ambassador Ghafoor Participates at the Ambassadors Advisory Board Meeting of Executive Council on Diplomacy



04 December 2024, Washington, DC; Ambassador Ghafoor attended the annual Ambassadors Advisory Board meeting at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. Hosted by His Excellency Radovan Javorcik, the luncheon offered a platform for discussing the Executive Council on Diplomacy's (ECD), and for the members to shape ECD's initiatives for the coming year.

Ambassador Ghafoor has been a member of the Advisory Council since April 2024. ECD is a diplomat-driven organization dedicated to fostering trust and cross-cultural understanding.

## Embassy Participates in Asia Foundation Event on Strengthening Civic Spaces



05 December 2024, Washington, DC; Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed and Counsellor Zeena Didi attended The Asia Foundation's event, "Strengthening Civic Spaces: Lessons from South Asia." Discussions highlighted challenges faced by civic spaces in the region. Ms. Roshan Shajehan, Senior Program Officer from The Asia Foundation in the Maldives, shared valuable insights on the role of Maldivian civil society in promoting governance and accountability.

## Embassy attends U.S. International Development Finance Corporation's 5th Anniversary Conference



*09 December 2024, Washington, DC;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) 5th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. The event brought together senior U.S. government officials, foreign leaders, members of Congress, business executives, and development finance experts to review DFC's achievements over the past five years and discuss future directions in development finance. Ambassador was accompanied by Counsellor, Zeena Didi to the Conference.

The conference featured discussions on key investment trends in emerging markets, with a focus on sectors such as clean energy, global health, food security, and critical minerals. Panels also explored the impact of the BUILD Act and opportunities for advancing sustainable development.

Notable speakers included U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, USAID Administrator Samantha Power, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, and DFC CEO Nathan Scott.

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## Ambassador Attends Penn Washington Event on Higher Education and U.S. Government Relations

*11 December 2024, Washington, DC;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed took part in an event hosted by Penn Washington at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on the importance of American higher education and the opportunities it offers. The event featured a panel discussion among education leaders, including Dr. Carol Christ, Chancellor Emerita of the University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. L. Rafael Reif, President Emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The session, moderated by E.J. Dionne of The Washington Post, explored the evolving relationship between universities and the future of academic excellence in the U.S.

## Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed Attends Holiday Reception Hosted by Chief of Naval Operations.

*17 December 2024, Washington, D.C.;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended a Holiday Reception hosted by the Chief of Naval Operations at Tingey House, Washington Navy Yard.

The event brought together distinguished guests to celebrate the season, fostering goodwill and strengthening diplomatic ties between the Maldives and the United States.

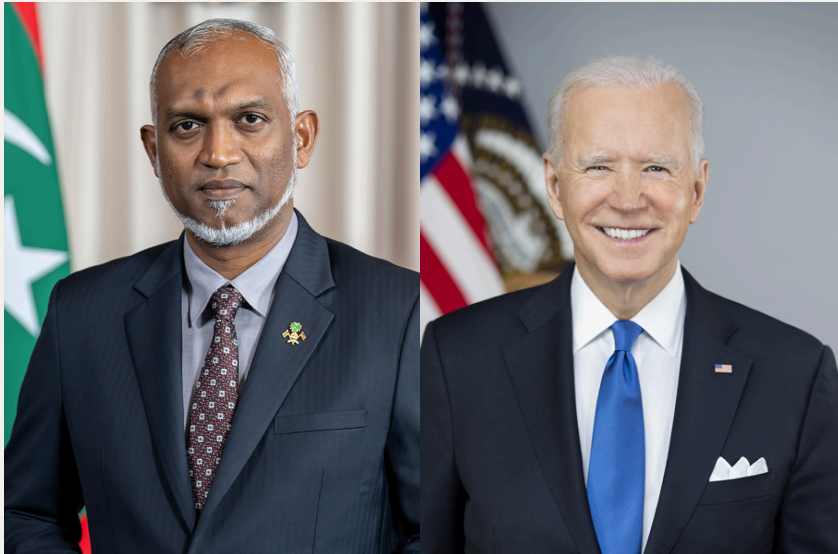
## Ambassador Attends Holiday Reception Hosted by Secretary Blinken



*18 December 2024, Washington, DC;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended the holiday reception hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ms. Evan Ryan at the U.S. Department of State.

The annual event provided an opportunity to engage with the broader diplomatic community in Washington, D.C., as well as counterparts from the U.S. Government, fostering dialogue and strengthening diplomatic relationships.

## President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu sends a Condolence Message to President Biden on the passing of the Former US President, James Earl Carter, Jr.



30 December 2024; His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu conveyed a message of condolence to President Joseph R. Biden Jr. following the passing of The Honorable James Earl Carter, Jr., the 39th President of the United States. In his message, President Dr. Muizzu highlighted President Carter's lifelong dedication to serving humanity, both during his presidency and in his post-presidential life, expressing hope that his legacy as a leader and humanitarian would continue to inspire the world. He extended his sincere condolences to President Carter's family, the Government, and the people of the United States.

Ambassador Ghafoor is schedule to attend the Lying in State Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol on January 7, 2025. and the Funeral Service for President Carter at the Washington National Cathedral on January 9, 2025



Ambassador Ghafoor Signed  
the Condolence Book at the U.S. Department of State

## Other Engagements

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*3 December 2024, Washington, D.C.;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended the celebration hosted by the Royal Thai Embassy on the occasion of Thailand's National Day.

Maldives and Thailand established diplomatic relations in 1979.

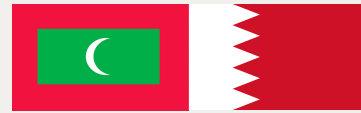
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*4 December 2024, Washington, D.C.;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended Qatar's National Day celebration hosted by the Embassy of the State of Qatar at the National Museum.

Maldives and Qatar established diplomatic relations in 1984.

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*10 December 2024, Washington, D.C.;* Ambassador Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed attended the National Day celebration of the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted by the Embassy of Bahrain.

Maldives and Bahrain established diplomatic relations in 1981.

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Embassy of the Republic of Maldives  
In the United States

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