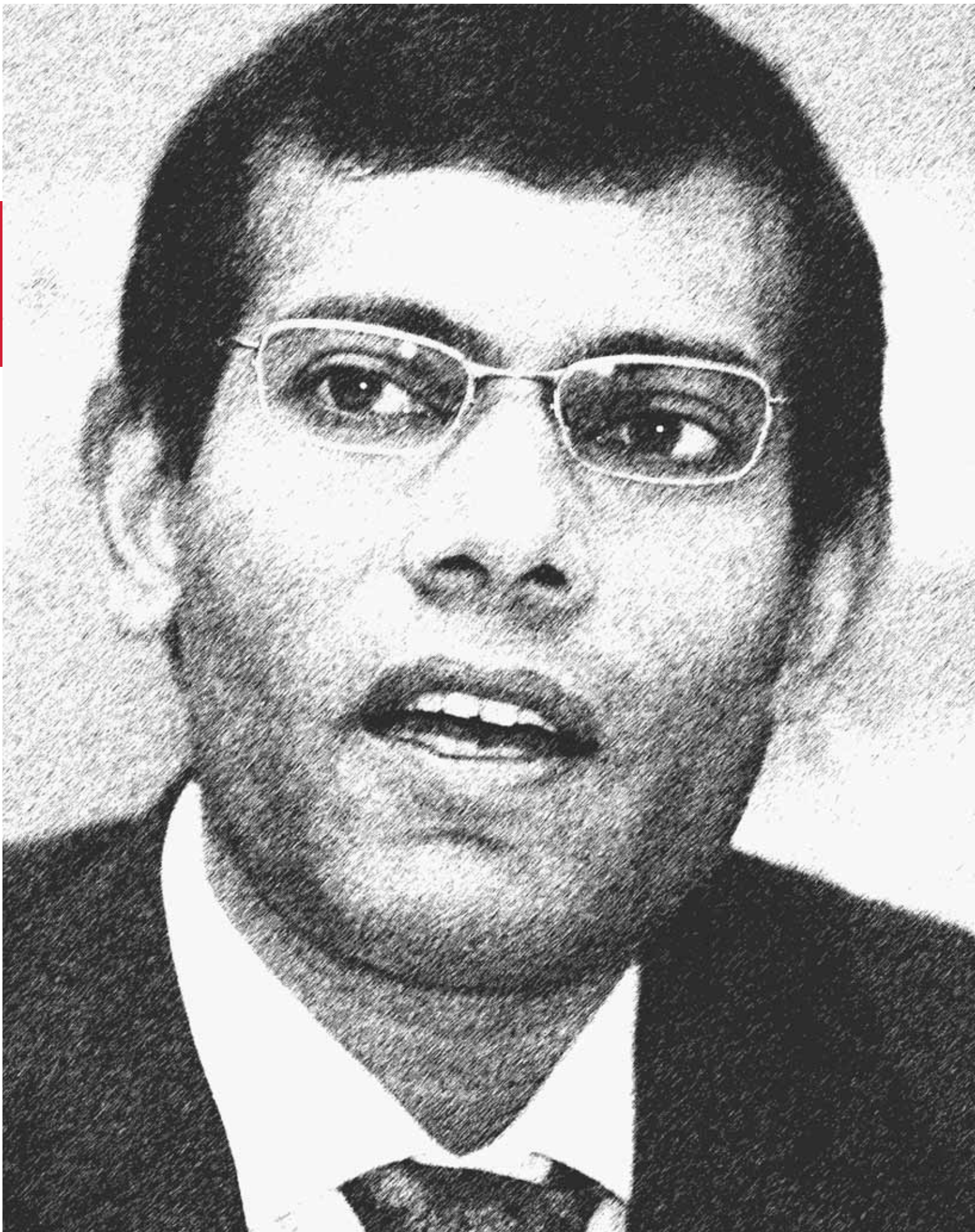




MALDIVES



## A Brief Biography of His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed

*Mohamed Nasheed was born in May 17, 1967 and is the current President of the Maldives. He is the founder of the Maldivian Democratic Party. In October 2008, Mohamed Nasheed was elected as President after defeating long-time President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in a second round of voting. He was sworn in as President on November 11, 2008. Nasheed is commonly known in the Maldives as ‘Ann’ and is a former member of Parliament for Male (capital of Maldives). He was an outspoken critic of former regime and its policies. Due to his criticism of the government, over the years, he was arrested and sentenced several times.*

As a boy Nasheed attended Majeediyya School in the Maldives, between 1971 and 1981. He continued his secondary school education overseas at the Overseas School of Colombo, from 1981 to 1982 until he completed his GCSE Ordinary Level Certificate. In August 1982 he moved to the United Kingdom where he completed his Higher Secondary Education at the Dauntsey’s School in Wiltshire. Straight after his A-Levels, Nasheed moved north to Liverpool where he spent the next three years reading for a Bachelor of Arts in Maritime Studies at Liverpool’s John Moores University.

He was made an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience in 1991 when he was being held in prison for a 1990 article in the political magazine Sangu in which he alleged the Maldivian government had rigged the 1989 general election. After being held in solitary confinement and reportedly tortured, he was accused of withholding information about a bombing plot. On April 8, 1992, he was sentenced to three years in prison on that charge. He was released in June 1993, and then re-arrested in 1994 and 1995. In 1996 he was sentenced to two years imprisonment for an article he had written about the 1993 and 1994 Maldivian elections.

In 2000, he was elected as a member of the parliament representing the people of Malé. Six months later, in 2001 he was tried and sentenced to two-and-half year’s banishment for the theft of unspecified government property from H. Velaanaage – the former residence of former president Ibrahim Nasir. Supporters of Nasheed believe that it was a fabricated charge against him motivated by political desires. This was later proved to be so, when Dhivehi observer (of Ahmed Shafeeq Ibrahim Moosa) published a leaked letter, sent by then Minister of Construction and Public Works Umar Zahir to the former Minister of Defence (later the High Commissioner to Delhi) Anbaree Abdul Sattar. The letter, dated October 31, 2001, was published on the website on October 10, 2005. According to this letter, Nasheed did take some files from the residence which were about to be destroyed as they were of no value to the government. According to Umar Zahir there was no restricted area for the public in the residence. In his letter Umar Zahir stated “Later that day I did check the storage place from which Mohamed Nasheed apparently took that material. There was nothing there that could be of use. There remained only old written materials and books. Those things have now been burned”.

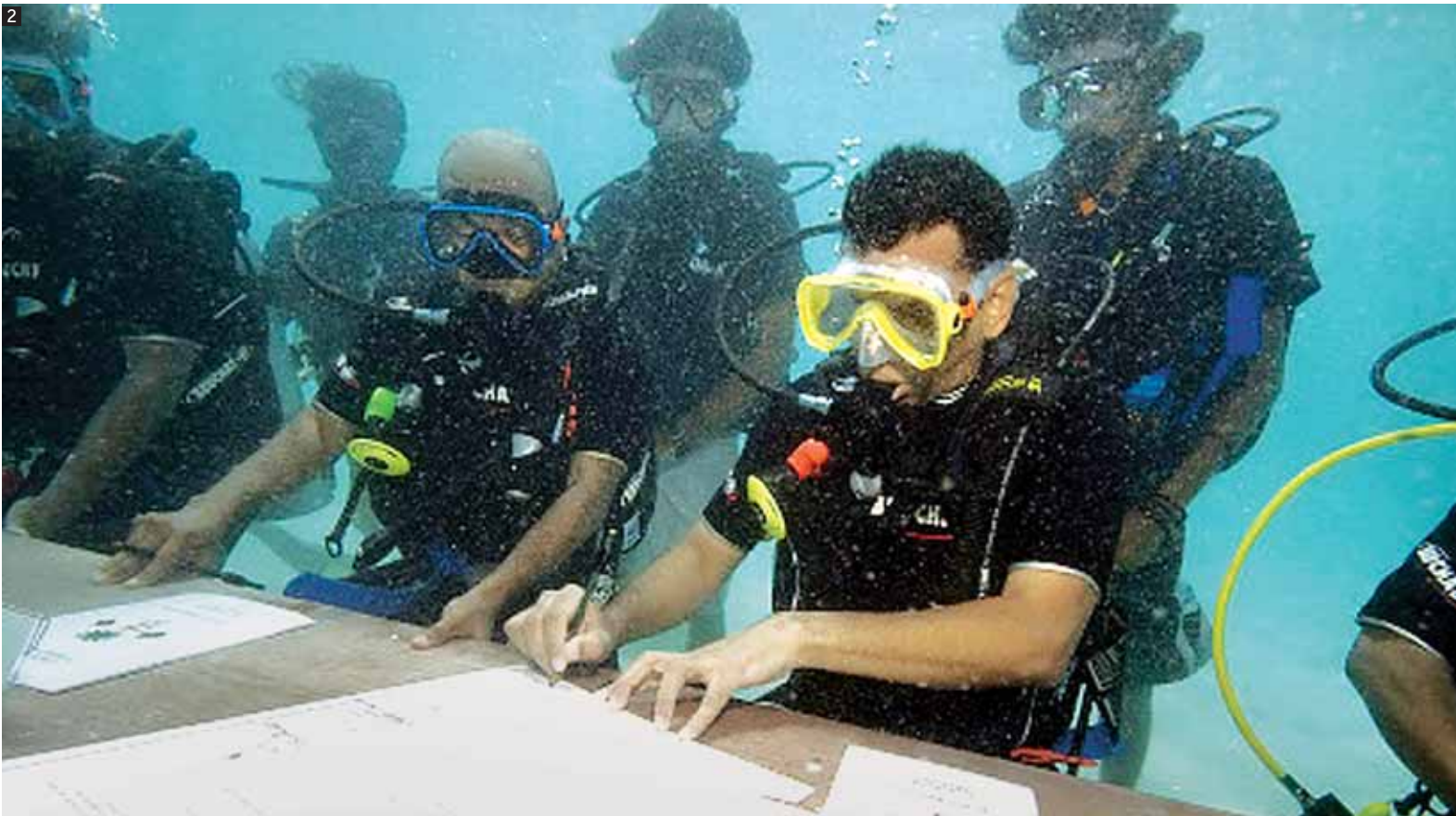


1. President Mohamed Nasheed with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

2. Under-water Cabinet Meeting of Maldives, led by President Mohamed Nasheed; a historic event to address the challenges of Climate Change.

3. President Mohamed Nasheed with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

4. President Mohamed Nasheed with US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama.





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In November 2003, Nasheed left the Maldives and joined Mohamed Latheef to help establish the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), in exile, in Sri Lanka and the UK. He was recognized as a political refugee by the British government in 2004. After about 18 months in self-proclaimed exile, Nasheed returned to Malé on April 30, 2005. After returning to the Maldives he began promoting the MDP before it was officially recognized by the Government. With the decision to allow political parties in the Maldives, on June 2, 2005 and the official recognition of the MD's existence, Nasheed accelerated his support campaigns for the party. He made several trips to the Atolls, and neighboring countries on behalf of the party.

Nasheed stood as the MDP Itthihaad's candidate together with Mohammed Waheed Hassan as the Vice Presidential Candidate in the October 2008 presidential election; this was the first time the country had held a multiparty presidential election by popular vote. In the first round, Nasheed and Dr. Waheed placed second with 44,293 votes (24.91%), just behind President

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the governing Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP), who received 71,731 votes (40.34%). In the second round, Nasheed and Dr. Waheed were backed by the unsuccessful first round candidates and won 54.25% of the vote against 45.75% for Gayoom.

In May 2009, Nasheed was presented with the Coral Cultivation Initiative Award by Huvafen Fushi Resort and Underwater Spa, Maldives in recognition of his active participation in cultivating coral in the resort's nursery as well as for his efforts in creating greater awareness on the impact of climate change in the Maldives. ■



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