

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

Born : 29 December 1937, Malé

MALDIVES

President



Training/education

1966: Degree in Islamic studies from Al-Azhar University, Cairo.

1950s-1960s: Student in Sri Lanka and Egypt.

Professional experience

2005: Orders arrest of reporters Jennifer Latheef, Abdullah Saeed, Mohamed Yushau and Mohammed Nasheed, of opposition paper *Minivan*.

2004: Prevents media coverage of democratic opposition. Three cyber-dissidents jailed, access to about 30 Internet websites blocked.

2003: Orders arrest of four journalists, including three staff of e-mailed newsletter *Sandhaanu*. Several independent journalists threatened. Jennifer Latheef, documentary filmmaker and freedom of expression activist, arrested and beaten.

2001: Orders arrest of opposition MP Mohamed Nasheed, who is also a freelance journalist.

1980s: Freedom of expression restricted by several laws. No independent radio or TV stations and main newspapers run by Gayoom and his associates.

Novembre 1978: Becomes president.

1977: Becomes transport minister.

1974: Named head of telecommunications department, then imprisoned for 50 days for criticising President Ibrahim Nasir, then made under-secretary in prime minister's office.

1967-71: Teaches at American University in Cairo and Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria.

Hobbies/interests

Collecting watches, appointing cronies to the government and fishing.
