



## MOHAMED LATHEEF

Mohamed Latheef had his early education at Trinity College, Kandy, Sri Lanka and did political science at the American University of Beirut.

In the early 80's he went into the tourism industry. He was the first Secretary General of the Maldivian Association of Tourism Industry. He was also the Vice President of the Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During President Gayyoom's rule, Latheef and some friends started an independent English weekly and a Maldivian language daily. They were forced to close down under pressure from President Gayyoom.

In 1989 Latheef was elected to the parliament and, along with like minded colleagues (including current President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik) tried to make the parliament a more independent institution. Within six months Latheef was put under solitary confinement and the movement seized.

In 2003, along with President Mohamed Nasheed, he started the freedom movement. The Maldivian Democratic Party – of which he is the Founder– in 2008 won the first free and fair election in Maldives. He subsequently kept out of party politics but was Advisor to the President on human rights, democracy and rule of law.

At present Latheef is Chairman of the Raajje Foundation, an organisation dedicated to the development of civil society in the Maldives.