



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY
MALE',
REP OF MALDIVES



Ref. no.: (PR)28-AD-3/PRIV/2018/9
Date: 28th February 2018

PRESS STATEMENT

The Government of the Maldives was informed that a vessel named 'Xin Yuan 18,' flying a Maldivian flag was navigating international waters and it is suspected of illegally transferring goods to and from a vessel under the name of 'Chon Ma San,' flying a flag of North Korea. The Ministry of Defence and National Security is investigating the report with all haste.

The concerned authorities of the Maldives have confirmed that the vessel named 'Xin Yuan 18' does not belong to the Maldives and it was never registered with the Government of the Maldives.

The Maldives does not accommodate open-ship registration facilities, and it does not allow flags of convenience for foreign vessels. Further, it is clear that 'Xin Yuan 18,' by flying a Maldivian flag in international waters was operating in violation of international laws and regulations, as well as those of the Maldives.

The Ministry views the use of the Maldivian flag on 'Xin Yuan 18' as a serious violation. As such it is exploring avenues to address it and looking to take measures to ensure non-recurrence of this violation in the future.

