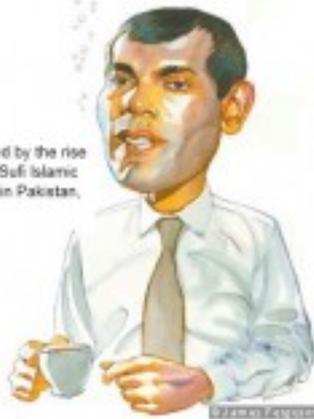


## A president who is not a Citizen

Posted By Hilath

He is also a fan of 21st-century British multiculturalism. He is worried by the rise of militant Islam in the Maldives and extols the island state's liberal Sufi Islamic traditions. He says 14 Maldivians have been arrested in Waziristan in Pakistan, for being on the Taliban's side.



Just a day before I was to leave for [Nepal](#), a local journalist friend said to me whether I will be allowed to return back to Maldives since I am effectively not a citizen after having declared myself a Sufi Muslim — when the 1997 Maumoon Constitution, which Anni inherited, says that all Maldivian citizens should be Sunni Muslim.

The earlier Constitution was much liberal and stated that only those people who seek public office be a Muslim, and they did not even specify any “version” of Islam. At that time any Maldivian can belong to any religion he likes as long as he stays out of civil service or political posts.

But not anymore. But then the funny thing is, as I never tire of pointing out, Anni gave an [interview](#) to *Financial Times* where he expressly said that he wants Maldivians to go back to our Sufi roots rather than embrace Wahhabism!

I can understand that; while Wahhabism is sort of admirable in that it also, like Sufis, tries to go back to Islam's “fundamentals” or roots, the concept of **intolerance** (“Allah wants only Sunni Muslims on earth in order to establish the *Kingdom of Heaven* and therefore all non-believers and infidels should be killed”) which seems to be a key feature of Wahhabism is a ripe ground where extremism and terrorism can breed.

That's why I stay away from local NGOs like Jamiyyathul Salaf and the Islamic Foundation, however good their intentions are, because although they themselves have not acted violently (at least not in Maldives — yet), the “converts” I talked to **in principle** support things like suicide bombing and killing innocent people in the name of Islam — although *they themselves* do not want to blow themselves up in Afghanistan. Indeed, [Moscow Jaleel](#) may have been an exception because Maldivians by nature are very selfish; they would rather “others” do the dirty work for them and blow up themselves while they themselves, the “masters”, sit at home preaching and in their free time watching football or *Kasauti* or fucking one wife after another in a series.

When Gayoom passed the ‘new’ Constitution for Maldives, requiring that every citizen be a Sunni Muslim, the Islamic Conservative Adhaalath Party, which was then in bed with the MDP, immediately lodged a suit at the court to prove that Gayoom was “not a Sunni Muslim”, which as every Maldivian knows, was an attempt to proclaim that Gayoom was an infidel because all Maldivians had been brainwashed (by none other than Gayoom's own education system) that anybody who is not a Sunni Muslim is *automatically* an unbeliever or *kafir*. Though Maumoon won the case (because his goons are all over the Maldives judiciary), the ground reality remains that both Anni and I, as long as we have declared ourselves Sufi Muslims, cannot be citizens of Maldives anymore according to this crap Constitution we all inherited as Gayoom's legacy.

So how come Anni, who is openly promoting Sufi Islam, is continuing to remain President, without any legal challenge by anybody, not even the now jilted mistress Adhaalath? And how come I get to remain in Maldives? Or most importantly, is there a government or State scheme by which non-citizens like Anni and me can migrate and settle in another country? I wish there was...

In a nutshell, why are all these Maldivian lawmakers in the Parliament — who claim they are intelligent, sentient, self-aware and conscious beings — not aware of such a stupid **loophole** in our Constitution?

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