

China rejects foreign meddling in Male

Rejecting foreign meddling, China on Tuesday expressed confidence that the escalating political crisis in the Maldives will find a home-grown solution.

“We believe the Maldives government and political parties have the wisdom and the capability to deal with the current situation on their own,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said during his regular media briefing. “We hope relevant parties can properly resolve the differences through dialogue and consultation and restore normal order as soon as possible and maintain national and social stability,” he added.

China’s emphasis on seeking a domestically driven breakthrough follows a call by the former Maldivian President, Mohamed Nasheed, for India’s support in the release of political prisoners.

In view of the uncertain situation, Mr. Geng said the Chinese Foreign Ministry “had adjusted the security alert level and asked the Chinese citizens to closely follow the local situation and not to travel to Maldives”.

“If they have plans to go to the Maldives we advise them to cancel it. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the security of the Chinese citizens including the outbound tourists,” he said.

China is the number-one source of tourists for the Maldives. Chinese tourists constitute about 30% of the Maldives tourist arrivals.

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