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Maldives Supreme Court bars jailed ex-President Yameen from race

Верховний суд Мальдівських островів заборонив ув'язненому експрезиденту Яміну брати участь в перегонах

Верховний суд Мальдів підтвердив, що ув'язненому колишньому президенту Абдулі Яміну заборонено брати участь у вересневих президентських виборах країни. Це рішення є ще однією невдачею для Прогресивної партії Мальдів, яка оголосила А.

Яміна своїм кандидатом до того, як його засудили за корупцію та відмивання грошей через відкати від приватної компанії, коли він був президентом. Президент Ібрагім Мохамед Соліх балотується на другий термін, незважаючи на розкол його Мальдівської демократичної партії після публічної суперечки між І. М. Соліхом та іншим колишнім президентом Мохамедом Нашидом.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/maldives-supreme-court-bars-jailed-ex-president-yameen-race-2023-08-06/>

The Maldives Supreme Court confirmed on Sunday that jailed former President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom is barred for the country's September presidential election.

The ruling is another setback for the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), which declared Yameen its candidate before his December conviction for corruption and money laundering over kickbacks from a private company while he was president.

The party last week challenged the Election Commission's block on his candidacy because he is serving an 11-year jail sentence, arguing the commission had misinterpreted the constitutional prerequisites for presidential candidates.

The commission's decision "that Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom is ineligible as he doesn't meet the conditions stipulated under article 109 is the correct decision," Justice Husnu Al Suood ruled.

Yameen, the half-brother of former dictator Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, was seeking a comeback in the South Asian archipelago after losing power in 2018. He campaigned against Indian influence in Maldives, raising concerns in New Delhi.

Close to strategic shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean, Maldives is a focal point of competition between India and China for influence in the region.

The PPM's coalition partner, the Progressive National Congress, has said it would field a candidate if the Supreme Court declared Yameen ineligible.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is seeking a second term despite his Maldivian Democratic Party splitting in June after a public fallout between Solih and another former president, Mohamed Nasheed.

Nasheed, after losing the party's president primary to Solih, formed a party called The Democrats, which has announced its own candidate.