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**From:** Sultan Bin Sulayem  
**Sent:** Tue 2/7/2012 1:41:56 PM  
**Subject:** Dr Wahid is the new Maldivian president

**Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed forced to resign**

**Amanda Hodge, South Asia correspondent**

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Maldives police amid a cloud of teargas in the capital Male as they confront the military before the resignation of Mohamed Nasheed last night. Picture: AFP Source: AFP

THE Maldives' first democratically elected President, Mohamed Nasheed, was forced to step down from office yesterday, saying he was unwilling to use force against his own people after three weeks of protests led to a police mutiny.

Mr Nasheed announced his resignation in a dramatic televised address yesterday afternoon amid reports of violent street clashes between police and army security forces that still supported him.

"I don't want to hurt any Maldivian. I feel my staying on in power will only increase the problems, and it will hurt our citizens. So the best option available to me is to step down," Mr Nasheed said yesterday.

"I resign because I am not a person who wishes to rule with the use of power."

Mohammed Waheed Hassan, a former top UNICEF official, was sworn in as the new Maldivian President shortly after.

Both men denied a coup had taken place, despite earlier claims by a group of mutinying police officers who took control of the state broadcaster in the capital, Male, yesterday and began playing messages of support for former ruler Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Sent from my iPhone

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