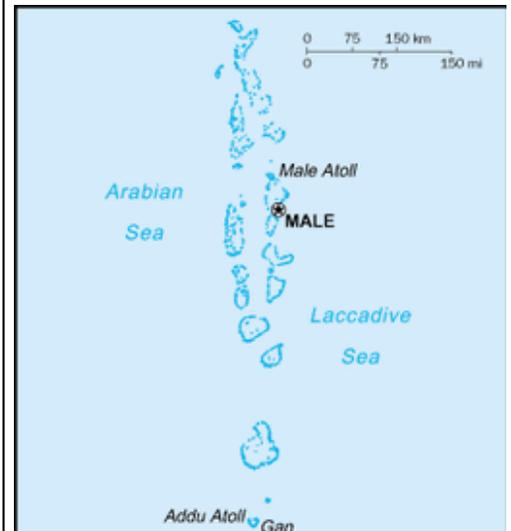


Maldives

- ◆ Male is the capital city of Maldives.
- ◆ The official religion is Islam and there is no freedom to practice other religions. Christians cannot be seen meeting together or reading the Bible.
- ◆ Dhivehi is the official language.
- ◆ Maldives is a chain of 1,190 coral islands located just below India.
- ◆ Most of the people live on the same island as the capital city of Male.
- ◆ The Maldives islands are on the equator so have a warm tropical climate. The temperature stays between 75 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit all the time.
- ◆ Many people in the Maldives make a living fishing. They can catch up to 100 fish an hour!
- ◆ Others work in tourism. Vacationers come mainly from Europe and Asia to Maldives because the islands are so beautiful.
- ◆ Maldivians make beautiful crafts. They carve wood and stone, build boats, weave mats, and hand carve jewelry.
- ◆ Children learn to read and write in Dhivehi, English, and Arabic.



Story: No Help for Ismail

Ismail Mohamed Didi was 25 years old when he decided that life was no longer worth living. His coworkers found him hanged in his office at the airport air traffic control tower in the capital city of Male. He had killed himself.

Ismail grew up in a family that strongly believed in Islam. He never questioned his faith until he was 20 years old. At that time he decided he didn't want to be a Muslim.

Ismail wished he had not told his coworkers he was no longer a Muslim. Once he did, the word spread quickly and everything changed for him. He began to receive anonymous death threats on his email accounts and voice mail. His friends avoided him and his girlfriend was forbidden to see him by her parents.



Story cont...

Ismail no longer felt safe in the Maldives but didn't know of anyone who could help him because the Maldivians are 100 percent Muslim, and there is no place for non-Muslims in society.

Ismail sought protection from persecution with a human rights organization in another country, but no one responded to his desperate cries for help. Now it is too late to help him.

Ismail was not a Muslim, or a Christian, or a Jew, or any religion. He called himself an atheist, and in Maldives that is not acceptable. In fact, no religion but Islam is tolerated. All other religions are greatly persecuted.



Recipe: Coconut Pie



- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 eggs | 1 cup caster sugar |
| 1/2 cup unsalted butter – softened | 1 cup almonds – slivered |
| 1 cup coconut – desiccated/scraped | 2 tbsp. lemon rind – grated |
| 1/2 cup lemon juice | 1 cup coconut milk |
| 1/2 cup plain flour – sifted | |

Preheat oven to 180°C (350 °F / Gas mark 4). Place the eggs, sugar, butter, almonds, coconut, lemon rind and juice, coconut milk, and flour in a food processor or blender and blend until well combined. Pour into a buttered 28 cm pie plate. Bake for 1 hour until lightly browned. Set aside to cool, then refrigerate for 1 hour to chill.

Activity: Bashi

This traditional sport has been revived and is played by Maldivian women. There are two teams of seven or eleven. This game can be played on a tennis court and tennis balls and rackets are needed.

In this game one team serves to the other team. The servers must hit the ball backward over the net while the other team tries to catch the serves. For each serve that is caught, the server is out. The servers can serve up to 12 times, then they must pass the serve on to the next person. Once all servers are out, it is the other team's turn.



Go to www.frontlinekids.com/resources to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable coloring sheets and more.