

# National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 73: April 2024

## THE MALDIVES CALLS FOR JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND TOLERANCE AMONG NATIONS



**Dr**. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, the Minister of Islamic Affairs, delivered the national statement during the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Banjul, The Gambia, from May 4–5, 2024. The summit revolved around the theme of "Enhancing Unity and

Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development."

The Maldives firmly advocates that Palestine's full UN membership is pivotal for laying the foundation of enduring peace in the region. Ending the prolonged conflict is imperative for a region that has suffered far too much turmoil. The establishment of an independent and

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sovereign state of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders with east Jerusalem as its capital, stands as the most sustainable solution and the ultimate guarantor of peace in the region. Upholding international norms, laws, and human rights, Palestine unequivocally deserves the right to self-determination.

Additionally, Dr. Shaheem emphasized the importance of affirming the right to freedom of religion for Muslim communities worldwide. Islamophobia persists, breeding fear, hatred, institutional discrimination, and oppression. Misconceptions portraying Islam as synonymous with terrorism and violent extremism continue to proliferate, exacerbating conflicts and perpetuating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and minority religious communities.

The proliferation of hate speech and misinformation on both traditional and social media platforms significantly distorts people’s understanding and perception of Islam. Therefore, addressing Islamophobia necessitates long-term initiatives focused on education and awareness to promote the true message of Islam, which advocates peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and tolerance, as delineated in the Holy Quran.

Promoting volunteerism creates strong bonds within communities, making them less vulnerable to extremist ideologies.

@SawabCenter



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## Meeting with Saudi Ambassador-Designate to the Maldives

28 April 2024

Senior officials of NCTC met with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Matrek Abdullah Al-Ajalin Aldosari to follow-up on the on-going works with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and discuss potential areas for further collaborations.



## Meeting with the Chief Judicial Administrator

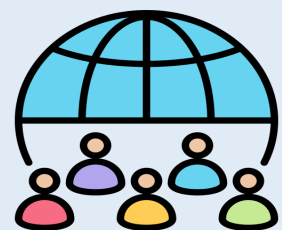
28 April 2024

NCTC held an introductory meeting with the Chief Judicial Administrator and senior officials of the Department of Judicial Administration (DJA). The meeting deliberated on the importance of strengthening the criminal justice system. NCTC is committed to working with DJA to ensure the capacity building of judges and courts in handling terrorism related cases.



With terrorist narratives thriving on intolerance, a whole-of-society approach is essential in building community resilience against terrorist acts.

@UN\_CTED





## Meeting with Minister of Social and Family Development

30 April 2024



NCTC held an introductory meeting with the Minister of Social and Family Development. The meeting centered on the need to address societal grievances in Maldivian communities through collaborative efforts. NCTC is determined to enhance the collaborations with the ministry to provide capacity building and awareness sessions for identified target audiences to build a peaceful and resilient Maldivian society.

## Capacity Building

23 April 2024

NCTC officials participated in the workshop titled “Salaama: Rehabilitative Care to Women and Children Returning to Maldives from Conflict Zones” organized by the Counter Extremism Project and the Maldives National Reintegration Centre (NRC).

The NRC is undergoing its second challenge on rehabilitating 5 families brought from the conflict zone in Syria. It is utmost important that the

facilitators and experts working at NRC and its partner agencies to develop their staff capacity in dealing with these individuals to reintegrate into the mainstream societies of Maldives.

Furthermore, NCTC in partner with the NRC is preparing to conduct sensitization programmes to the designated regions for reintegration in the Maldives.

***“If a man learns tolerance, love and peace in his youth, he will grow up tolerant and peaceful. ...If a man learns intolerance and hate in his youth, he will grow up to become intolerant and hateful. So if we seek to instill tolerance and peace and fight terrorism and violence, we must start education.”***

- Dr Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi

## Peace and Security Through Community Resilience and Nurturing Children



Peace and security might seem like distant dreams in today's world. But did you know the key to achieving them might lie right in our own neighborhoods? Strong, resilient communities that nurture their children are the foundation for a more peaceful world.

### *Building Peace Together: Strong Communities, Strong Futures*

Have you ever noticed how safe you feel in a neighbourhood where everyone seems to know each other and look out for one another? That sense of security is not just a coincidence. Strong, resilient communities are the bedrock of a peaceful society.

Here's the idea: When people feel connected, supported, and have a sense of belonging, they're less likely to resort to violence or conflict. This positive environment is especially important for children, who are shaped by their surroundings. By nurturing them in a safe and supportive community, we are investing in a generation of peacemakers.

Let's look at a real-life example: The Cidade Verde project in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil transformed a crime-ridden and dangerous favela (slum) into a thriving community. Residents worked together to improve housing, create green spaces, organize cultural events and develop job training programs. The result? This not only

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beautified their neighborhood but also fostered a sense of pride and ownership. Crime rates plummeted, and a strong sense of community replaced fear and isolation.

Here in our own community, we can all play a part. Whether it is starting a neighbourhood watch program, volunteering at a youth center, or simply getting to know your neighbours, we can build connections that foster a sense of security and belonging and eliminate isolation.

### *Nurturing the Next Generation*

Children are like seeds – they need fertile ground to flourish. How we raise them shapes the world they will inherit. By providing them with a safe environment, nurturing their emotional well-being and providing opportunities for positive development, we are helping them foster the skills and values they need to become peaceful and productive members of society.

Think about programs that offer after-school activities, conflict resolution training, or access to mental health resources. These initiatives not only equip children with essential life skills but also create a support system that fosters empathy and understanding.

Take Liberia, for example. After a devastating civil war, the country prioritized education and psychosocial support for children. This included programs that helped children cope with trauma,

develop empathy, and learn peaceful ways to resolve conflicts. This investment in the younger generation is a crucial step towards lasting peace.

However, we must remember, peace is not just the absence of war; it is about building a society where everyone feels safe, respected, and empowered.

### *Building a Brighter Tomorrow*

So, how can we create strong communities that nurture children?

- **Support local initiatives:** Look for community gardens, neighbourhood watch programs, mentorship opportunities, donate to after-school programs, mentor a child, or volunteer at a local youth center.
- **Get to know your neighbours:** Organize festivals, feast gatherings, or book clubs to build connections.
- **Advocate for quality education and after-school programs:** These provide children with a safe space to learn and grow.
- **Speak out against violence and promote peacebuilding initiatives.**

Let's work together to create strong communities where children can thrive, laying the foundation for a more peaceful future for all.



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במסגרת הפורום.

תפוצת הפורום רשמי.ס.ס.ס. אירועי סטודנטים  
2024 אפריל 28 ו-29 פורום  
הפורום יתקיים ב-28 אפריל 2024  
במסגרת הפורום יתקיימו אירועים  
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## National Counter Terrorism Centre

### **ADDRESS**

Ameer Ahmed Magu  
Male', Republic of Maldives

### **PHONE:**

(+960)-331-4670

### **EMAIL:**

[info@nctc.gov.mv](mailto:info@nctc.gov.mv)

### **WEBSITE:**

[nctc.gov.mv](http://nctc.gov.mv)

### **TWITTER:**

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