



# NCTC NEWSLETTER

National Counter Terrorism Centre , Maldives

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“Whoever controls the Indian Ocean dominates Asia. This Ocean is the key to the seven seas. In the 21st Century the destiny of the World will be decided on its waters.”

- Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan

 **1615**  
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## TRI-LATERAL EXERCISE “DOSTI” STARTS OFF WITH EMPHASIS ON MARITIME TERRORISM & SECURITY CHALLENGES





## DEFENCE MINISTER MARIYA REITERATES PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE MARITIME SECURITY IN THE REGION

Maldives is a maritime nation with over 99.7% of its area in the sea. The threats to security of the nation has emanated from the maritime domain in the history of the Maldives and it is likely to emanate through or from the maritime domain in the future. In today's globalized world, no nation is able to face the asymmetric threats posed by non-state actors and terrorists working in isolation.

The Indian Ocean is the third largest



strengthen the already existing ties of friendship and enhance mutual operational capabilities in the areas of maritime Search And Rescue (SAR), Marine Pollution Response and responding to maritime security threats.

From 1991 onwards Exercise Dosti took

place every other year with Coast Guard surface and air assets being utilized for the exercise.

In 2012, Exercise Dosti was raised to new

heights. With the participation of Sri Lankan Coast Guard, the Bi-Lateral Exercise between Maldives and Indian Coast Guard became a Tri-lateral Exercise. The expertise of the Sri Lankan Coast Guard, especially with their vast experience in responding to maritime security threats in the territorial waters, gave an opportunity to enhance the

operational capabilities of the three Coast Guards..

“Trilateral Exercise Dosti –14” was inaugurated by the Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi. In her inaugural address, she highlighted the importance given by President His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in ensuring the security of the Indian Ocean by closely working with our neighbours.

She also stated that this exercise gives her greater confidence that the Seas



body of water in the world and is the lifeline of World Commerce with vital Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) that feed the Asia's largest economies and the world's fastest growing economies.

Maldives straddles the strategically important Sea Lanes of Communication of the Indian Ocean, with over two thirds of the world's maritime oil trade transiting through Maldivian waters.

Understanding the regional security environment and the strategic importance of keeping those SLOCs and choke points open in the Maldivian Waters, the Maldives and Indian Coast Guard started joint Maritime Exercise Dosti in 1991 to

*I would like to reiterate the commitment expressed by the President of Maldives, His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, to promote and develop the capabilities to ensure maritime security in the region .*

H.E. Uza. Mariyaa Ahmed Didi, Minister of Defence

around the Maldives and the Greater Indian Ocean would be more secure because of the enhanced interoperability of the three coast guards. She expressed her hope that these efforts would be sustained and assured the Chiefs of the Coast Guards of her commitment to work closely with our neighbouring maritime nations.

## NCTC OFFICIALS HEADED BY DG BRIG.GEN. MANSOOR AND DEPUTY DG BRIG.GEN. HAMID CONDUCTS A BRIEFING SESSION ON COUNTER TERRORISM FOR DEFENCE MINISTER MARIYA DIDI

28-29 November 2018



Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi met the Director General and the senior leadership of NCTC. During the meeting, the Minister was given a comprehensive presentation of the National Counter Terrorism Centre.

The main focus of the presentation was on the national context of Violent Extremism and Terrorism and the strategic response to counter these threats.

The brief highlighted historical perspective of the evolution of Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the Maldives and the strategic responses adopted by the governments. It also highlighted the process of formulation of national policies, strategies, and action plans.

After defining main terminologies, contemporary threat environment (both local and international) was

briefed to the Minister. She was also briefed on the process that is involved in radicalization leading to terrorism, the main drivers of violent extremism and also the common narratives that are being used to radicalize the peace loving Maldivian community. The salient findings of the baseline study conducted in March of 2017 was also briefed with special emphasis on the messages and literature that used extensively in the radicalization process.

Minister was also presented some real life examples of Maldivians' involvement in the Foreign Terrorist Fighter phenomenon, their fates and the hardships faced by the family members.

The main narratives being used by extremists in luring youth into the Syrian conflict and the counter narratives that are being used to address these messages were also

briefed to the Minister.

The grand National CT/PCVE Architecture as well as the “National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” and the approaches and the domains in which NCTC has concentrated its effort was also briefed.

The way ahead and the challenges faced by NCTC were also shared. The Minister communicated the Governments' policy on countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and articulated her policy guidance for future efforts and priority areas for NCTC to focus.

She stated that the main focus of NCTC should be on Countering Terrorism, Deradicalizing and Rehabilitating the radicalized individuals and on protecting the community at large from the influences of extremism.



## SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR OF UNDP PRAISED THE MALDIVES' CT EFFORT AND GIVES ASSURANCE OF UN'S COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE NCTC'S CAPACITY

27 November 2018



UN's Resident Coordinator and UNDP's Resident Representative Ms. Shoko Noda and Senior Policy Advisor Mr. Terence D. Jones met the Director General and senior staff of NCTC as part of his trip to increase the engagement with the new leadership of Maldives.

Mr. Terence D. Jones is a former Resident Coordinator of United Nations who has served since 1969 in some ten duty stations for the UN system over a period of 37 years, and in the 8 country offices and served as the Resident Coordinator in Bhutan, Malawi, and Philippines.



The visit to NCTC is one of a series of visits to senior members of the government of Maldives to identify areas of support that the government require and ways in which UNDP can assist the government in the

implementation of its development agenda.

During the visit DG gave a brief introduction of the efforts of NCTC

and the collaborative work that we have successfully conducted with UN bodies, especially UNDP and UNODC.

The Briefing started with a brief introductory video of NCTC followed by answering the queries of the Senior Policy Advisor.

UNDP's Resident Representative Ms. Shoko Noda highlighted the excellent working relationship that is established with the National Counter Terrorism

Centre and congratulated the DG for his efforts and the successes that NCTC has achieved on addressing Terrorism and Violent Extremism through a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach. She also expressed her gratitude for aligning the NCTC's strategies and approaches with the United Nations' Secretary General's Plan of Action.

Senior Policy Advisor Mr. Terence D. Jones accepted

that due to the geography of Maldives he understood the logistical difficulties that would be associated in reaching the population and he said that UN is fully committed to assist Maldives in its Counter Terrorism and Counter Violent Extremism efforts.



## REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF UK'S COUNTER TERRORISM BRANCH CONGRATULATES NCTC ON ITS EFFORTS AND GUARANTEES UK'S CONTINUED SUPPORT

25 November 2018



Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor met Inspector Sean Kelly of the UK's Counter Terrorism International Protect and prepare Coordinator for the South East and East Asia Region. In the meeting, he was accompanied by the Ch. St. Inspector Mohamed Nazim and St. Inspector Samir.

The main aim of the meeting was to discuss avenues of cooperation and collaboration between the UK counter terrorism agencies and the Maldives.

Inspector Sean Kelly expressed UK's eagerness to support Maldives in our PREPARE strand by working closely with the senior leadership of NCTC, MPS, MNDF, including its FIRE SERVICE, COAST GUARD, and

the Emergency Medical Services.

He expressed the desire to see how Maldivian agencies have responded to emergencies, to learn best practices that can be adopted. He said that UK has learned extensively from the French response to Terrorist attacks and have modified UK's doctrines and contingency plans accordingly. He further stated that UK could learn from some of the best practices of Maldives and Maldives could learn from that of UK's.

Inspector requested for a scoping trip in the near future with extensive meetings from UK's CT agencies, including fire services and has suggested that a table top exercise would be beneficial for both nations.

BG Mansoor requested for UK's assistance in the Formulation of CT

Strategy and National Action Plans as well as development of Contingency Plans.

DG agreed with the Inspector that the main mission is to save as many lives as possible in an incident and to mitigate damage and disruption to services after an incident happens, so as to come to normalcy as quickly as possible.

He further requested UK's assistance in the prosecution phase and stated with regret that Maldives has faced challenges in prosecuting people who have been suspected of committing acts of Terrorism.

Insp. Kelly invited for a high level delegation of Maldivian CT forces to visit UK in the near future to observe the practices and processes in place in the UK.

## MALDIVES IS SERIOUS ABOUT ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY MEASURES

25 November 2018

A Maldivian team of ten experts leaves for London, UK, to take part in the Sub-Regional Workshop to be held from 27-29 November 2018. The workshop titled “Implementation of International Legal Instruments and Standards related to Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism” is being held

The event is organized by UNODC and will bring together the Subject Matter Experts from the Maldives,



*“This workshop contributed immense insight into the collaborative mechanisms needed for the development of the Maldives’ Maritime Security Strategy”*



- Col. Ismail Shareef, Coast Guard

for SMEs of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

meetings that were held throughout the year in their respective nations on

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to discuss on wide ranging topics identified as regional priorities during the UNODC

the Maritime security Domain.

There are a total of 10 participants from MNDF Coast Guard, Maldives Customs Service, Prosecutor General’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## NCTC MEETS THE TEAM OF EXPERTS TRAVELLING FOR COUNTERING FINANCE WORKSHOP IN SINGAPORE

29 November 2018

LT. Col. Hussain Ibrahim met the team travelling to Singapore for the workshop titled “Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction” to be held from 4-6 December 2018 for South and South Asian Countries.

This three-day workshop sponsored by UNODC aims to strengthen and develop the capacity of the Law Enforcement and Financial Intelligence Personnel in countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation of WMDs. It also provides the Law Enforcement and Intelligence Officers the necessary tools and practical measures to detect and

investigate the financing of terrorism.



The team will be headed by the Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre and has participants from Maldives Police Service and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Maldives Monetary Authority. These experts will return to the Maldives with

increased knowledge and skills and will share challenges, experiences and good practices with counterparts from other nations.

The team comprise of :

1. Brig. Gen, Zakariyya Mansoor
2. Pol. Sergeant Ahmed Shareef
3. Ms. Mirufa Haleem, FIU

The team was briefed on the Maldivian efforts on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism.

During the trip, DG will also seek the opportunities to collaborate with Singapore and other participating nations on Counter Terrorism to enhance the capacity of Maldives.