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“But help one another in goodness and piety, and do not assist in crime and rebellion ”

Holy Quran, 5:2



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PRESIDENT CALLS FOR PEACE AND COMMUNAL HARMONY



FIRST DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON P/CVE PRESENTED

PRESIDENT SOLIH CALLS FOR PEACE AND COMMUNAL HARMONY FROM ALL MALDIVIANS*24 January 2019*

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has called upon Maldives to observe peace and communal harmony. His remarks came during a press conference held at the President's Office. During this conference, President Solih reiterated

Constitution, thereby not giving a chance for anyone to infringe on our Islamic faith, nor giving a chance for anyone to harm any individuals or damage property under the guise of protecting Islam.

Chief of Staff of the President's Office.

The main responsibilities of this committee include discussing the matter with relevant authorities and taking immediate action and setting long term strategies to prevent actions of those who criticize religion and those who commit crimes such as willful destruction of property and endangering the lives of people in the name of protecting religion.

As the government's lead agency on CT and P/CVE, NCTC will be looking into the aforementioned issues and work with all law enforcement and stakeholder ministries and agencies to stop any party from creating disharmony on ideological grounds and work together to sustain stability and harmony.

“I urge citizens to refrain from activities that could contribute to discord in the community. National development is inextricably linked to lasting peace and stability in the country.” — President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

the importance of lasting peace and stability for national development.

Speaking to journalists, President Solih referred to the recent debates going across social media and various other platforms on religiously contentious issues. He urged all parties to refrain from creating discord in the community and repeated the government's stance on following the

The President's remarks came just a few days after he assembled a committee to find a solution to the issue of religious criticism targeted at Islamic faith. The committee comprises of the Vice President, Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, and the

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE GIVE ASSURANCE OF STRENGTHENED SECURITY TIES WITH INDIA

23-30 January 2019



Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi and the Chief of Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal visited India on an official visit from 23rd to 30th of January 2018.

During the visit, Defence Minister met the leadership of India's Ministry of Defence and the Service Chiefs, and discussed extensively on strengthening

bilateral defence cooperation between both nations. She called on the Minister of Defence and the Defence Secretary of India and discussed on issues of mutual interest, including increased Maritime Domain Awareness of the Indian Ocean. The honorable Ministers also discussed other areas of defence assistance and mutual cooperation.

Maldives being a nation that is composed of 99.97% water and only .03 % land, and looking into the global threat environment, we envisage the most likely threat to the Maldives to be from non-state actors. A terrorist attack targeted to the Maldives is most likely to emanate from across the sea and for that, enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness is imperative.

India has always assisted Maldives in its hour of need and have proved itself to be a responsible ally and have played a vital role in the security of the Indian Ocean Region. Future Areas of Collaboration include Counter Terrorism Training for the Maldivian Special Forces and bilateral training both in India and in the Maldives. For this purpose, India has assisted in the establishment of the Composite Training Centre in Lh. Maafilaafushi.



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increased Maritime Domain Awareness of the Indian Ocean. The honorable Ministers also discussed other areas of defence assistance and mutual cooperation.

NCTC PRESENTS THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM TO THE COUNTER RADICALIZATION COMMITTEE

30 January 2019



NCTC presented the first draft of the NAP on P/CVE to the Counter Radicalization Committee during a special meeting held at MNDF Coast Guard Building. The session started with remarks by the DG followed by the presentation of the current draft of the NAP by UNDP consultant Mr. Jonas Horner. Representatives from

Maldivian context by meeting the stakeholders and by getting first-hand experience through interaction with the island communities for drafting of the plan. He also highlighted the work done by UNDP regional advisor Mr. Simon Finley in creating the awareness of the importance of the NAP for the stakeholders and for

their contribution and promised to continue to work together with all stakeholders on future projects.

The NAP is a national level document formulated in consultation with government agencies, civil society, and the private sector. It is a product of contribution by everyone for everyone. The NAP will identify key areas of focus and cross-cutting themes across the board identified in the National Strategy on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism. It also lays out the framework for all line ministries and agencies to work together to achieve clearly defined objectives through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

NCTC will continue to gather feedback and identify issues and challenges in the current draft in consultation with relevant stakeholders before finalizing the NAP with a workshop for all stakeholders and CSOs.

“An action plan is only as good as its implementation. This is not NCTC’s NAP. This belongs to each and every one of us and it is our duty to work together to make the National Action Plan work.”

— Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor, Director General, NCTC

CR Committee gave their input, comments and feedback on the three prevention pillars (primary, secondary and tertiary) and each action identified in the NAP. The session ended with the closing remarks by Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives Ms. Aishath Rizna.

In his remarks, DG thanked United Nations and UNDP Maldives for their contribution and effort to strengthen the P/CVE sector and thanked Mr. Horner for his work in researching the

drafting the roadmap for the creation of the NAP. He also thanked the UNDP consultant, Mr. Robert Templer, whose research on youth vulnerability paved the way to the drafting process. DG also thanked members of the CR Committee for dedicating time for the meeting and their contribution throughout the drafting process. Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives Ms. Aishath Rizna also thanked members of the CR Committee for

MINISTER OF DEFENCE MEETS WITH HEADS OF AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

21 January 2019



Heads of Maldives National Defence Force, National Disaster Management Authority, National Counter Terrorism Centre, Maldives Customs Service, Maldives Immigration, and Aviation Security Command attended the meeting.

This meeting will improve interagency coordination and cooperation in carrying out the mandates of the Ministry of Defence in enhancing the security of the nation.

Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi met with the Heads of Agencies under the Ministry of Defence. During this meeting, the

Minister discussed pressing matters in the country and gave policy guidance to all the Agencies.

DG MEETS WITH THE MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS THE WORK DONE ON CT AND P/CVE

21 January 2019

Director General of NCTC BG Zakariyya Mansoor met with the Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Ahmed Zahir to discuss the work done on CT and P/CVE. In this meeting, DG shared the current situation of Maldives with the Minister and challenges. He stressed on the importance of alleviating any discord and disharmony due to religious tensions in the community. Islamic Minister echoed DG's sentiments and gave assurances that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs would take preventive and mitigation measures to prevent and counter any ideological extremism.

DG also briefed the Minister on the development of the National Action



Plan on P/CVE and requested assistance from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. Religious domain is one of the domains from the multi-sectoral domains establishing the broad areas within which P/CVE activities will be undertaken in the

Maldives, as defined in the P/CVE strategy.

The Minister and the DG agreed to continue to work closely together and give mutual assistance throughout the CT and P/CVE effort.

NCTC OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN “COUNTER TERRORISM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS” WORKSHOP HELD IN KURUMBA MALDIVES BY INTERNATIONAL PROTECT AND PREPARE DEPARTMENT OF UK

23 January 2019



NCTC officials participated in the “Counter Terrorism Emergency Preparedness” Workshop held in Kurumba Maldives. This one-day workshop was organized and conducted by International Protect and Prepare Department of UK in

collaboration with Maldives Police Service.

The workshop was focused on bringing together CT practitioners at the response level to share the response mechanisms in place during different scenarios in a tourist resort

or a hotel. Representatives from government agencies, private sector, and NGOs participated in this event.

The team of experts from the UK shared their knowledge and experience in responding to scenarios based on similar real-life incidents. The workshop concluded successfully with stress on the interagency response and especially the role of resort/hotel staff as first responders during any terror incident, given the geography of the nation.

These types of workshops and tabletop exercises are vital to improve interagency cohesiveness and impart a sense of responsibility for every stakeholder and identify gaps in communication and response mechanisms.

NCTC CONDUCTS A SCOPING TRIP TO LAAMU ATOLL AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM DRAFTING PROCESS

27 January 2019

NCTC conducted a scoping trip to Laamu Atoll as part of the NAP development process. DG BG Zakariyya Mansoor accompanied UNDP consultant Mr. Jonas Horner on this trip.

The purpose of this scoping trip was to assist Mr. Horner get a better understanding of the different communities in the Maldives. During this trip, the delegation visited Hithadhoo, Maavah, Gan, and Fonadhoo.

As majority of Maldivians live outside the capital Male’ City, it is imperative that the NAP is something applicable to all of the islands including remote islands and population centres such as Male’ City.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HOSTS THE WORKSHOP ON “IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS IN COMPLIANCE WITH UNSCR 1540”

23 January 2019

NCTC officials participated in the Workshop on “Implementation of Strategic Trade Controls in Compliance with UNSCR 1540” hosted by the Embassy of the United States of America in Maldives Customs Service building. This workshop focused on the key elements for the implementation of strategic trade controls pursuant to UNSCR 1540, multiple export control regimes, national controls lists, export, transit, transshipment,



recent developments in legal/regulatory other countries. The workshop provided a basis for forming an inter-agency working group to further develop Strategic Trade Control laws in

As major Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) pass through and around Maldives, the prospect of us seeing transiting and transshipment cargo passing through our ports is very real. NCTC will be closely monitoring to ensure the relevant measures are incorporated into the national CT and P/CVE apparatus.

brokering, and related services, and the Maldives.



A TEAM FROM MALDIVES PARTICIPATES IN THE “REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOR THE FOURTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE” IN BANGKOK

22 – 24 January 2019

Four participants from the education sector, youth sector, and Maldives Police Service participated in the “Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” in Bangkok. The purpose of this Regional Preparatory Meeting was to examine the substantive

agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress from a regional perspective and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

Even though not directly related to CT, understanding the crime-terror

nexus and taking the necessary steps to counter possible influx of terror related activities within crime is vital. The propositions and topics presented by the team will greatly benefit to put the Maldives’ recommendations on the agenda for the next UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

A FORTNIGHT OF ENGAGEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNER AGENCIES

MMA MEETS WITH NCTC REGARDING NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM

16 January 2019



Risk Assessment (NRA) on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing as the Mutual Evaluation of Maldives is due in 2020. NCTC agreed to give all necessary cooperation to make this national effort successful.

Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing is one of the biggest challenges in the global CT and P/CVE sector. These types of risk assessments and audits will greatly build credibility of Maldives in the

NCTC met with officials from the Central Bank of the Maldives, the Maldives Monetary Authority, to discuss the National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. During this meeting, officials from MMA highlighted the importance of conducting a National

global community and strengthen the financial sector of the country. The NRA is conducted with help of UNODC consultant Mr. John Chevis. UNODC is also one of the biggest contributors to the national CT and P/CVE effort in the Maldives.

DG MEETS WITH UNDP CONSULTANT MR. JONAS HORNER

21 - 23 January 2019

DG met with UNDP consultant Mr. Jonas Horner to assess the progress of the NAP development process.

During this meeting, DG inquired about the focus areas in the NAP and gave guidance on the approach to ensure it was focused on and applicable across the whole of Maldives.

DG also met with Mr. Horner in a follow up meeting on the 23rd to answer some of his questions and share documents requested by Mr. Horner.



The purpose of these meetings was to ensure the first draft of the NAP was as comprehensive as possible before being shared with stakeholders for comments and revision.

A FORTNIGHT OF ENGAGEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNER AGENCIES

DG MEETS WITH PROSPECTIVE PHD STUDENT MS. THOIBA SAEED TO DISCUSS AREAS OF RESEARCH RELEVANT TO NCTC

21 January 2019

DG met with prospective PhD student Ms. Thoiba Saeed to discuss areas of research relevant to NCTC and national security. During this meeting DG and Ms. Thoiba discussed her thesis and some of her findings.

Ms. Thoiba is a Chevening Scholar and has completed her graduate studies in the University of Edinburgh, where she completed an MSc (R) in Social Anthropology. She also holds a

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Sociology from the University of Melbourne, Australia on an Australia Awards Scholarship. Her areas of interest include Anthropology of space/place, infrastructures, senses, identity, nationalism(s), materiality, personhood, and development.

She will start her PhD in 2019 with her research focused on infrastructure landscape of the Maldives.

DG wished Ms. Thoiba the best of luck in her studies and promised to meet in the future as her research progresses.

NCTC is always open to collaborate and assist students and researchers in the areas of CT, P/CVE and national security, as the most important step of building a resilient community is education.

NCTC MEETS WITH INTERNATIONAL NGO FHI 360

21 January 2019

Technical Officer of Civil Society and Peacebuilding Department of FHI 360 Ms. Elizabeth Baldwin and Country Director for FHI 360 Nepal, Mr. Bishnu Sapkota met with NCTC officials. FHI 360 is an international nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions.

The INGO is involved in 12 practice areas to include gender, youth, civil society, and integrated development, and currently conducts projects in more than 60 countries around the globe. FHI 360 also engages in P/CVE via civil society and peacebuilding, and promotes conflict resolution via social cohesion. During this meeting,



both parties agreed to hold future discussions to pursue areas of mutual interest.

NCTC always welcomes its international partners and prospective

partners for joint collaborations and explore opportunities for cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism.

A FORTNIGHT OF ENGAGEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNER AGENCIES

UK CT OFFICIALS BRIEF DG ABOUT THE UPCOMING “COUNTER TERRORISM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS” WORKSHOP

22 January 2019

DG met with UK CT Officials to discuss different aspects of CT in the UK context and the “Counter Terrorism Emergency Preparedness” Workshop.

During this meeting, the Regional Coordinator of UK’s Counter Terrorism Branch Inspector Sean Kelly briefed DG about the different approaches and mechanisms used by UK CT officials. His team also spoke on this and highlighted the importance of interoperability among all emergency responders at every stage of the operation. Furthermore, the team also briefed DG on the “Counter Terrorism Emergency Preparedness” Workshop to be held in Kurumba Maldives and the areas of focus in the exercise.

The meeting concluded with the promise to continue to work together and a possible visit to observe J-TAC in the UK.

DG MEETS WITH UNDP MALDIVES TO DISCUSS FUTURE PROJECTS

22 January 2019



DG met with Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives Ms. Aishath Rizna to discuss future projects planned between NCTC and UNDP. During this meeting, DG and Ms. Rizna discussed the status of ongoing projects and future projects, to include NAP Validation Workshop, high-level dialogue, awareness program for school leadership in Addu City, and youth leadership forum.

UNDP Maldives has been a key partner of NCTC over the past two years. Their assistance and expertise have been greatly beneficial to NCTC and its partner agencies in the

NCTC MEETS WITH WEAM TO DISCUSS FUTURE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES

23 January 2019 and 31 January 2019



NCTC met with the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Maldives (WEAM) to discuss areas of assistance in WEAM’s empowerment programs for women. DG and LTC Hussain Ibrahim met with the team

WEAM also met with UNDP consultant Mr. Jonas Horner, who gave information about possible aid from the UN and explained the procedures to go about getting UN assistance for their programs.

from WEAM and discussed how P/CVE can be inculcated into these programs.

The team from

The fruitful series of meetings ended with both parties agreeing to work together as the program is further detailed.

NGOs like WEAM play a vital role in the promotion of peace and tolerance, building resilience against subversive and extremist ideologies, and assist the state in preventing exploitation of youth. NCTC always welcomes opportunities to collaborate with NGOs and civil society organizations.

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

By WO1 Soffan Shakir

Rehabilitating violent extremists and reintegrating them back into society is an

essential component of any comprehensive strategy to counter violent extremism. The government has the primary responsibility of the development, implementation and coordination of such a rehabilitation and reintegration program. However, the United Nations Security Council resolution 2396, suggests that a multidimensional, societal approach is the most crucial factor to

encourage and support a change in behavior of extremist offenders and reduce recidivism. As such, governments need to engage civil society

organizations and the local community including families, in a holistic

approach to ensure that extremist's, regardless of whether they were victims or fighters, gets the psychosocial and other support necessary to effectively reintegrate them into the society.

A comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration program is age appropriate and gender-sensitive, accounting for the varying needs and the differing approaches for men and women, and

boys and girls. Rehabilitation and reintegration programs that combine education with anti-violence training can be employed in the rehabilitation

Extremists would find it challenging to fully reintegrate into a community that harbors resentment towards them and obstructs their inclusion in society.

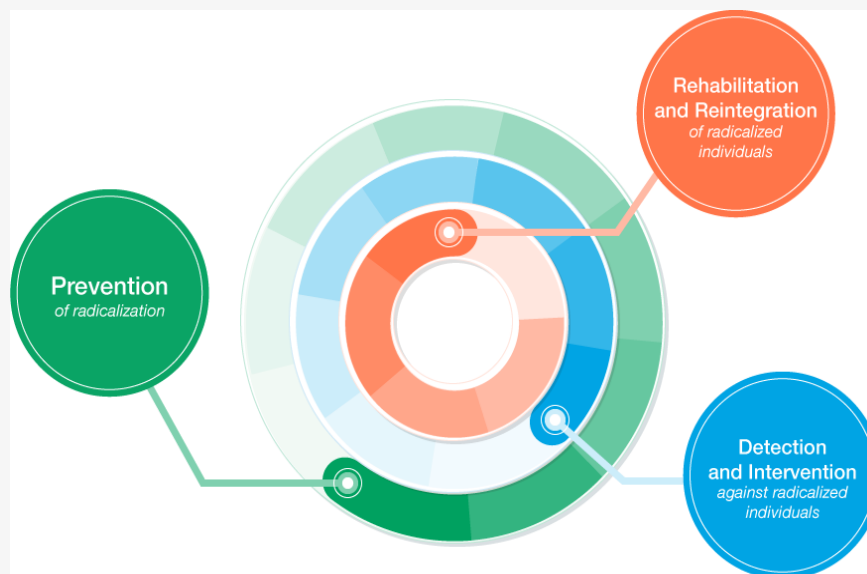


Image Source: GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

Modern methods such as Secure Housing & Employment Support programs offered in countries like Japan could also be employed for rehabilitation and reintegration of Violent Extremists. These programs provide accommodation and meals to vulnerable offenders who do not have an outside support mechanism.

Furthermore, they provide vocational training, employment counselling and other specialized treatment programs to those offenders who are enrolled in their program.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396, suggests that a multidimensional, societal approach is the most crucial factor to encourage and support a change in behavior of extremist offenders and reduce recidivism.

Rehabilitation and reintegration programs are being increasingly recognized as an invaluable addition to treating Violent

Extremists. Such a program supported by government, civil society organization, local communities and families is essential in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. A well balanced and organized program would minimize the security risk of extremists and would ensure that they are reintegrated into the society and reduce the risk of recidivism.

It is also important to include elements of community engagement to prepare families and community members for the return and reintegration of extremists back in to the community.