



NCTC NEWSLETTER

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"And make counsel with them in the affair; so when you have decided, then place your trust in Allah; surely Allah loves those who trust"

Holy Quran, 3:159

1615
HOTLINE

www.nctc.gov.mv

A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMBINED CR AND CT STEERING COMMITTEE OF 2019 WITH NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD

14 February 2019

A special session of Counter Terrorism Steering Committee and Counter Radicalization Committee chaired by Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi was held. This was the first meeting of both committees for 2019. The meeting held in the conference hall of MNDF Coast Guard was attended by both newly appointed members and the old members.

The meeting started off with a brief introduction from the Director General followed by welcoming remarks from the Minister of Defence. The participants were then shown a video presentation of the roles and responsibilities of the National



Radicalisation Committee.

It was followed by a joint briefing on the current situation of terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Maldives by

environment of the Maldives on Terrorism and Violent Extremism front were shared with the members.

The members were also briefed on the role of Violent Extremist Narratives in radicalizing the Maldivian Youth and the assistance needed by the line ministries in the propagation of Counter Narratives and Alternative Narratives.

After the briefing, the members discussed extensively on the strategic level decisions to be taken by the organisations that were represented by the members. Various challenges faced by the institutions were discussed freely and the chair was advised by the members on the way forward for the issues and challenges that were being raised.



“We cannot standby and look on, when our sons and daughters are pulled into a civil conflict in a foreign nation and while those youth die and their families are left to fend for themselves in a strange land. I urge all to take this seriously and carryout the strategies through their institutions to curb Violent Extremism.”

— Minister of Defence UZA. Mariya Ahmed Didi

Counter Terrorism Centre and the Strategic level two committees, namely the Counter Terrorism Steering Committee and the Counter

the Maldives National Defence Force, Maldives Police Service and the National Counter Terrorism Centre. In the briefing, the contemporary threat

Regular meetings will be held to discuss pressing matters subsequently by both committees.

CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE BRIEFED ON THE CT AND CVE THREAT ENVIRONMENT AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NCTC

11 February 2019

Chief of Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal and the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Brigadier General Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef was given a briefing on the on-going efforts of National Counter Terrorism Centre.

The Senior Leadership of the Maldives National Defence Force was briefed on the existing mechanisms and new ventures being established to make the preventive effort of Counter Terrorism and

Counter Violent Extremism, a more “whole of Government “ and “whole of Society” partnership.

Taking into consideration that MNDF would be the lead agency in any Counter Terrorism Operation which involves the use of Kinetic Force, there already exists very effective close coordination and cooperation between NCTC and MNDF.

The Senior Leadership of MNDF

were also briefed on the progress of the formulation of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Maldives, which was undertaken with the assistance from UNDP.

Chief of Defence Force assured the DG of NCTC that all assistance from MNDF will be provided to NCTC in its efforts to make Maldives a more peace loving and moderate Nation.

DG MEETS THE DIRECTOR OF THE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS OFFICE OF USAID

11 February 2019

DG and the senior staff of NCTC met the Director of the Office of Vulnerable Population of US Ms. Alena Tansey and the Senior Governance Specialist Mr. Jerado Porter.

United States Agency for International Development is an independent federal agency of the United States that provides aid to citizens of foreign countries. Types of aid provided by USAID include disaster relief, technical assistance, poverty alleviation and economic development.

During the meeting, Ms. Alena Tansey stressed the importance that USAID places on alleviating the hardship faced by vulnerable populations through conducting programs such as vocational training,



Health programs, and other developmental programs.

She inquired from the Director General about the Maldivian youth vulnerability and the involvement of Maldivian youth in the Syrian conflict.

Ms. Alaina assured the DG of the commitment of USAID in conducting Developmental programs for the Maldives and discussed freely on areas where USAID could assist Maldives in capacity building.

DG AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF NCTC MEETS THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

06 February 2019



The Director General of NCTC Brig. Gen. Zakariyyaa Mansoor met the senior leadership of the Maldives Correctional Service with the senior leadership of NCTC to discuss the rehabilitation programs that could be conducted in the prison system. In the meeting he stressed the importance of Civil Service Organisations in the conduct of Rehabilitation programs for inmates. He highlighted that the advanced countries of the world conduct rehabilitation programs in a wide variety of fields.

Some of the rehabilitation programs that he advised MCS to look into include but was not limited to:

1. Religious Rehabilitation
2. Vocational Rehabilitation
3. Social Rehabilitation

4. Educational Rehabilitation
5. Family Rehabilitation. and
6. Psychological Rehabilitation.

MCS highlighted that they are able to conduct Religious Rehabilitation with the assistance of Ministry of Islamic Affairs by delivering religious sermons through Clerics who have been wetted by the Islamic Ministry.

He further highlighted that the rehabilitation process goes through four phases where the inmates are given an education (where applicable, with some of them sitting for the Cambridge GCE O Levels). Those who have a skill set or would like to enroll in a vocational training are being given a certified vocational training . In subsequent phases, the inmates who have shown good

behavior and non violent traits are given financial rehabilitation opportunities. They are given an opportunity to work in a project and earn a living through a controlled and monitored working environment. However, no formal mechanism has so far been implemented to incorporate Civil Society Organizations into the Rehabilitation Programs.

DG Gen. Mansoor highlighted that he had been seeking Australian Government's assistance in capacity building of prison staff and also in the conduct of the Rehabilitation programs. He assured the Maldives Correctional Service that NCTC would assist MCS in the conduct of various rehabilitation programs through the collaboration with national and international partners.

PARTNER AGENCIES OF NCTC PARTICIPATES IN THE CROSS REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN BALI, INDONESIA

5-8 February 2019



Four participants from partner agencies of NCTC participated in “The international Counter Terrorism Legal Framework, and its international cooperation aspects, against the financing of Non-State actor acquisition of Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Weapons and related IMO legal instruments” held in Bali,

This workshop was sponsored by UNODC in partnership with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

The workshop covered a wide range of topics related to the international cooperation in countering Non-State Actor acquisition of Biological,

regional Maritime Security Strategies and best practices. They also covered regional experiences, challenges, approaches and lessons learnt in the implementation of the laws and institutional measures for countering the Non-State Actor acquisition of Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Weapons.



Indonesia from 5-8 February 2019. The participants were from MNDF Coast Guard, Ministry of Transport, Maldives Monetary Authority and the Maldives Ports Limited.

Chemical and Nuclear weapons. In the workshop, members from regional countries also shared knowledge and know how on the development of

The participants selected were from the institutions which are directly involved in the monitoring of movement of goods and finances from and into the country. This cross regional workshop will strengthen the mechanisms of the regional countries in stopping the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) especially by strengthening mechanisms to curb Non-State Actor acquisition of WMDs . This workshop will also increase the knowledge of regional nations on good practices in identifying and countering the financing of Terrorism.

NCTC BRIEFS THE PARTICIPANTS OF CROSS REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

12 February 2019

DG and senior leadership of NCTC met the participants who are travelling to Colombo, Sri Lanka to participate in the cross-regional workshop titled “Preventing Violent Extremism through Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist and Terrorist Offenders and Strengthening Partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Local Community”. The workshop will be held from 26-28 February 2019.

The event will bring together government officials, relevant experts, criminal justice practitioners, and representatives of CSOs active in the prevention of violent extremism from the beneficiary countries (Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines), to



provide them with a forum for sharing experiences and good practices on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) leading to Terrorism and on the management of Violent Extremist offenders.

Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss relevant topics such as new and ongoing national and regional frameworks to Counter and Prevent Violent Extremism, the roles of criminal justice officials in P/CVE

leading to terrorism, and mechanisms of Disengagement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Terrorist and Violent Extremist offenders.

Renowned Islamic Scholar and Dean of Post Graduate Studies of Islamic University will participate from the civil sector in addition to participants from NCTC, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Security and the Attorney General's Office.

NCTC GOES ON TWITTER!

06 February 2019

In line with the Maldivian Government's policy of transparency, the National Counter Terrorism Centre has added a new information sharing portal to its already existing platforms of the NCTC Website, its fortnightly newsletter and the hotline 1615.

The official twitter handler of NCTC is *@NCTCMaldives*

The aim of introducing the official twitter account of NCTC is to share vital information, with the public and international community in a timely manner. This is an ongoing effort to be more open and accessible to the public through all available social media platforms.

NCTC urges the public and its partners to share their concerns and other relevant information through the available social media platforms.



TWELVE THOUSAND ISLES: NATIONALISMS, CULTURES AND IDENTITIES IN THE MALDIVES ARCHIPELAGO

By Thoiba Saeedh, MSc(R)



Photo: www.visitmaldives.com

Article links to: SAEEDH, T. 2018. *Embodied place(s): emotional landscapes and senses of self in the Maldives archipelago* (MSc by Res in Social Anthropology dissertation), Submitted to the University of Edinburgh.

This project, through the medium of infrastructures and occupied and abandoned places in the Maldives, explores the relationship locals have with the non-human world, and what these interactions allow researchers to understand in relation to identity, senses of belonging, and nationalism.

Places/infrastructures is made significant by local informants themselves. During field research, informants talk about the landscape around them; such as abandoned

mosques, gravesites that are no longer in use and crumbling historical sites. In these continued interactions, they invoke a very specific history, Maldives as an Islamic nation. The Islamic conversion story, defeat of foreign invasions, folklores, poetry, and songs speak of a Maldives of an Islamic origin, upheld for decades as an Islamic country. These stories as narratives are replicated in schools, as theatrical performances and recounted and celebrated, marveled at and the history is then sentimentally invoked and registered on everyday forms of representation. The state of mind created in the Maldives, is of a shared homogeneity enforced through state apparatuses over generations. That is the core of the nation upon which all other significances rest – “one nation, one religion, one language”, repeated by many locals). Imagery has the

power to create imagined communities, an imagined ‘*Dhivehivanthakan*’ (Anderson, 2016, 1990)

It should be noted however, that although the country is represented as a homogenous whole, atolls and islands within atolls have distinct histories and resilient identities. They are shaped by a shared history yet at the same time a very particular history, particular to their locales.

With increasing development – new roads, ports, bridges, harbours and so forth, new places are occupying the old. If the past is invoked in historical sites, what does new infrastructures and places speak of? When locals speak of development, they make a distinction between internal development and external development. External development

(*tharaqqee*) refers to places, roads, bridges, buildings etc. Internal development (*thahuzeebu*) is of the self, of cognition and mental acumen, i.e., of persons and peoples. When talking about the development of the self, locals' talk about the loss of 'Maldivianness', of good morals, of values, of social responsibility, of the uncertainties of the futures, and the promises and the disparities that it brings in. Thus, although development promises progress, it is simultaneously a source of anxiety, as the future that the development promises, also connects increasingly to the foreign – to outsiders.

In the Maldives, daily lives for citizens are carefully conditioned on a strong separation between the citizen and non-citizen. Nation and religion are conflated in the discussions pertaining to who or what constitutes a Maldivian, grounded on a separation between the foreign and the local. That which is foreign: an individual, beliefs or practices, is not Maldivian. The demarcation between citizens (*dhivehin*) and non-citizens (*beyrumeehun*) is vigilantly applied. *Beyru* in the local language means outside, and *beyrumeehun* literally translates to outsiders. Laws within the country are distinctly applied to citizens and non-citizens (*beyrumeehun*). A Maldivian is at the same time both a Maldivian and a Muslim, given the strength within the National Constitution. This separation of citizen and non-citizen, *Dhivehin* and *beyrumeehun*, in all accounts of everyday life, ordained by the state,



Photo: www.visitmaldives.com

affords the ethnic, national and religious homogeneity to permeate within the parameters of the overarching laws that govern the archipelago.

As a popular tourist destination, Maldives has a continuous flux of foreign visitors, in addition to the foreigners already residing in the country for purposes of work, business and leisure. In addition, with infrastructural development and the increasing geo-political activities ongoing in the Indian Ocean Region, global foreign interest seeps in to the country. Globalization introduces anxieties of the foreign, of the secular, anxieties that are threats to an established identity.

Given the increasing conflation of nation and religion in the local identity, notions of nationalism not

only connect to nation and religion, but also disconnects from nation.

Emergence of religious-nationalisms, and transnationalism in an increasingly globalizing world results in shifting local identities, also deemed threatening to peace and security. Increasing urban-rural disparities, notable by the centralized development, highlight inequalities in access to services, and social injustices, resulting in an alienation of the self from the national dialogue. This forces us to ask: how does modernity, globalization, increasing interconnectedness on a global scale, and the increasing presence of the foreign implicate the lives of the local people, and claims to a national identity, and what futures does this present for the society as a whole?