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*“Do I not destroy my enemies
when I make them my friends?”*

Abraham Lincoln

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NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PEACE AND SECURITY:

PRESIDENT REITERATES COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING PEACE AND TOLERANCE



NCTC CONDUCTS THE "NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY"

26 February 2019



A one-day high-level conference, aimed at creating a platform for policymakers to discuss on the threat of terrorism and violent extremism and identify specific areas of cooperation at national level to synergize the national Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) efforts was conducted in Male'.

The conference was inaugurated by His Excellency, the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. His Excellency Vice President Faisal Naseem, cabinet ministers, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Shoko Noda, Chief of Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamal, Acting Commissioner of Police Mohamed Hameed and high-level officials from

the various stakeholders in the P/CVE effort participated in this conference.

Facilitators at the conference included officials from the National Counter Terrorism Centre, the Maldives Police Service and Policy expert Robert

Templer from UNDP Maldives. During the conference, the participants were given an update on the current situation of terrorism and violent extremism in the Maldives as well as a glimpse of the forecasted threat landscape. In addition, they were





given a brief on the inherent social issues that make the youth vulnerable to extremism.

The conference, held at Hotel Jen was designed with four main segments including situation awareness, national policies and strategies, and international best practices.

His Excellency the President noted that this was a very important meeting and thanked the NCTC for organizing it. He noted that the Maldivians were homogenous in linguistic, cultural and religious terms and that the identity of Maldivians was peacefulness. He also pointed out that this was what was being sold through the tourism sector and that all Maldivians wanted to live in peace.

HEP also noted that the government wanted to ensure the security, harmony and wellbeing of all citizens at every turn. However, he lamented that some individuals had strayed from the correct islamic teachings and adopted extremist ideologies. He said





that this was compounded by irresponsible defamation and criticism of Islam by various individuals and that these issues needed to be addressed. He said that the government was focusing on building

an educated generation brought up according to the correct teachings of Islam, noting that the Foreign Terrorist Fighter phenomenon was a detriment to the economy as well as the society.

His excellency said that promoting activities that could have negative consequences for the peace and stability of the nation were not in anyone's interest and called upon the Maldivian people not to encourage any sort of extremism or activity that would result in the loss of stability in the country. He said that all government institutions, the security forces and the NCTC were working in collaboration with each other to ensure a content, peaceful environment for the people of Maldives. He called on all individual citizens to consider each island as their personal responsibility and to be citizens who are accountable to that responsibility.



His excellency then thanked the NCTC for taking the initiative to organize the forum and thanked the UNDP and UN permanent representative Ms. Shoko Noda and her team for supporting the effort. He noted that collaboration such as this was important to build a peaceful and prosperous community and that he hoped such enterprises would continue into the future.

NCTC SIGNS AN MOU WITH HEDAYAH CENTER OF UAE

19 February 2019



NCTC signed a Memorandum of Understand with Hedayah, International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism in United Arab Emirates. The signing ceremony took place on the margins of the International

Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX) 2019 in Abu Dhabi. Hedayah Chairman, H.E. Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi and the Defence Minister of the Maldives, H.E. Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi signed the memorandum.

The MoU focuses on research and human

resource development collaboration between the two entities to include de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration, counter-narratives and strategic communications, returning foreign terrorist fighters and other pertinent issues.

Hedayah Center was established in 2012 and is a Center for Excellence that provides a forum for P/CVE practitioners to collaborate and share experiences and lessons learned. This MoU is the first MoU signed between NCTC and an international organization, and is a great accomplishment for NCTC and especially the Maldives' work in the CT and P/CVE sector on the global spectrum.

NCTC always welcomes its international partners and prospect partners for joint collaborations and to explore opportunities for cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism.



DG CALLS UPON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS TO ASSURE CONTINUED COOPERATION IN CT AND P/CVE

18 February 2019

Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor called upon the Minister of Home Affairs, Sheikh Imran Abdulla.

During this meeting, DG explained the efforts undertaken by the NCTC and the important role of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the rehabilitation process. DG further mentioned the ongoing work with law enforcement agencies under the ministry to Prevent and Counter Violent



Extremism and existing rehabilitation mechanisms.

Before concluding the meeting, DG thanked the Minister for his contributions and efforts and gave his assurances to the Minister that NCTC will continue to find capacity

building opportunities for officials of the ministry and its agencies. Both parties promised to continue and develop cooperation in the national Counter Terrorism and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism effort.

As the line ministry responsible for rehabilitation as stipulated in the Anti-Terrorism Act and the parent Ministry of Maldives Police Service and Maldives Correctional Service, Ministry of Home Affairs has two of the most important roles in the P/CVE effort: rehabilitation and preventive law enforcement.

DG MEETS EU CONSULTANT MR. FRANCK AMATO

19 February 2019

DG met with EU Consultant Mr. Franck Amato and Head of Cooperation of Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Mr. Frank Hess. This meeting was attended by a team of EU officials and NCTC officials. The meeting began with a quick introduction about NCTC and the national CT and P/CVE effort by DG.

Mr. Amato inquired about the current state of affairs in the national CT and P/CVE process and about specific issues faced in the Maldives. The team also asked about the relationship between CSOs and the NCTC and the work done in partnership with local



NGOs. The officials further discussed the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration and the challenges faced in Maldives as it works to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation program.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, DG assured the team that NCTC works in close coordination with the local community and especially the NGOs and other CSOs to ensure the work done by NCTC and relevant government agencies are effective.

NCTC CONDUCTS WORKSHOP ON “EDUCATION SECTOR AWARENESS ON THE THREAT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM IN MALDIVES” IN ADDU CITY

21 February 2019



NCTC conducted a one-day awareness workshop for Principals, Heads of Schools, and Senior Educators of Addu City. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Education and UNDP Maldives and with assistance from MNDF Southern Area and Hithadhoo School. The aim of the workshop was to educate and enhance the role of education sector in the national efforts to prevent spread of Violent Extremism through enhancing resilience to address the issue of ideological difference, promotion of peace, respect, and tolerance. The workshop focused on addressing the issue of violence and societal divide emanating from ideological differences.

Minister of State for Education Ms. Fathimath Naseer inaugurated the workshop. The opening ceremony of the workshop was also attended by DG of NCTC BG Zakariyya Mansoor, Commander of MNDF Southern Area

COL Ibrahim Rasheed.

During her speech, she highlighted the roles and responsibilities of educators in nurturing a more tolerant society. She further noted the immense duty upon the shoulders of everyone in the education sector to prevent ideological extremism, promote respect and tolerance, and build peace loving communities.

DG Mansoor also spoke during the opening ceremony. He stressed on the importance of education as a tool to mitigate the challenges caused by violent actors and extremists. He also talked about the role of NCTC, state agencies, and Civil Society Organizations in preventing the society from Ideological and Violent Extremism, and explained national policies in place to the participants of the workshop.



The sessions in this workshop were conducted by officials from NCTC, Maldives Police Service, and Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa from the Islamic University of Maldives. During this workshop, participants were given the opportunity to develop and discuss ways and means to address the challenges and prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and violent extremism in the Maldives and especially in the schools. 19 participants from 14 schools in Addu City participated in the workshop.



This programme is a continuation of the series of workshops conducted by

NCTC for the education sector. The first workshop in this series was held on 08th September 2018 for the Heads of Schools in Male'.

DG MEETS WITH HEADS OF SCHOOLS FROM FUVAHMULAH TO DISCUSS AREAS OF FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH NCTC

22 February 2019

DG met with heads of schools from Fuvahmulah to discuss areas of future collaboration with NCTC. DG met with the officials during a trip to Fuvahmulah.

During this meeting DG explained the role of NCTC and the programs conducted by NCTC for educators and the education sector as a whole. Officials from the schools were very welcoming and agreed to work with NCTC to conduct an awareness workshop for heads of schools to identify and address

the threat of Terrorism and Ideological/Violent Extremism in the education sector.



As the Maldives is a geographically dispersed country, such initiatives from individuals and the local

community is the biggest avenue for NCTC to make the national P/CVE effort successful.

DG MEETS WITH THE INCOMING CHIEF OF DEFENCE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN COLOMBO

25 February 2019

DG met with Lieutenant Commander Ross Peters, the incoming Chief of Office of Defense Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in Colombo.

During this meeting LCDR Ross Peters discussed areas of cooperation between the United States and NCTC in CT and P/CVE. This meeting came just a few days after the PACOM Augmentation Team met with NCTC officials to discuss avenues of collaboration and possible programs.



NCTC MEETS WITH U.S. PACOM AUGMENTATION TEAM FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY TO DISCUSS AREAS OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN NCTC AND U.S. PACOM

24 February 2019



between NCTC and U.S. PACOM.

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the new members of the Augmentation Team and to discuss the conduct of a deradicalization program for convicts in prison. The officials also discussed further areas of cooperation and collaboration between NCTC and PACOM.

The United States, and especially the PACOM has been a great ally in our fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism across the full spectrum of activities.

NCTC officials met with U.S. PACOM Augmentation Team from the Embassy of the United States to discuss areas of collaboration

A DELEGATION FROM MALDIVES PARTICIPATES IN CROSS-REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA ON PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM ORGANISED BY UNODC

26-28 February 2019



A delegation from Maldives participated in the UNODC Cross-Regional Workshop in Sri Lanka on “Preventing Violent Extremism through Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist and Terrorist Offenders and

Strengthening Partnership with CSOs and the Local Community”.

The five-member delegation from the Maldives comprised of technical and leadership level officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Attorney

General’s Office, NCTC, Maldives Correctional Service, and the Islamic University of the Maldives.

The workshop brought together CT and P/CVE practitioners from across the region to share their national experiences and best practices. The workshop also focused heavily on rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorist and violent extremist offenders, including children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

UNODC has been contributing in capacity building of Criminal Justice response and P/CVE effort of Maldives through various training programs both locally and regionally.

