



## NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE, MALDIVES

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## Minister of Defence gives her assurance about security preparedness in the fourth EU-Maldives Policy Dialogue

11 March 2019

**M**inister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi gave her assurances about security preparedness in the fourth EU-Maldives Policy Dialogue. The purpose of the dialogue was to facilitate open and constructive engagement between the Maldives and the European Union (EU) to further strengthen the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the Maldives

and the European Union.

During this dialogue, the Minister briefed the EU delegation on work done by the government in the security sector, with special focus on Counter Terrorism and the security of the tourism industry. The Minister highlighted the achievements by NCTC and its stakeholder agencies in the CT and P/CVE sector and promised to work closely with the EU to further develop the security sector and the national CT effort.

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The European Union delegation was led by the Ambassador of the European Union to the Maldives, Tung Lai Margue. Heads/Deputy Heads of Missions from the European Union, France, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Czech Republic, Sweden, Poland, Romania, Italy and the United Kingdom who are accredited to the Maldives also attended the dialogue. The delegation of Maldives was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Abdulla Shahid.

In a joint press release by the Government of



Maldives and the delegation from the European Union, the delegation commended Maldives' commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its people and European tourists. The EU also reiterated its support for areas such as Counter Terrorism and security reform.

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"There is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development [...] Indeed, having robust civilian capabilities available could make it less likely that military force will have to be used in the first place, as local problems might be dealt with before they become crises."

*Robert M. Gates*

## NCTC briefs the National Security Council on current work done in the CT and P/CVE sector

14 March 2019

NCTC briefed the National Security Council to give an overview of the national CT and P/CVE sector. During this meeting, members of the National Security Council discussed the imminent issues of returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their families back to the Maldives. The council members were briefed on the way ahead and deliberated ways to address the situation.

The National Security Council was chaired by His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Attorney General, Chief of Defence Force, Acting Commissioner of Police, and the Vice Chief of Defence Force.

During this meeting, NCTC also briefed the Council on the progress of the national Rehabilitation and Reintegration program for radicalized individuals and violent extremists. This program is a whole of government and a whole of society effort to ensure Maldives remains a peaceful and peace-loving tolerant nation.

## NCTC shares the latest working draft of the NAP on P/CVE with CR Committee

21 March 2019



Extremism with the Counter Radicalization Committee. The NAP was shared during a CR Committee meeting. Stakeholder ministries and agencies discussed their line of work as outlined in the NAP.

In addition to the NAP, newly assigned members of the CR Committee were briefed on the work of NCTC and the roles and responsibilities of the CR Committee and its members.

The next step in the formulation of the NAP on P/CVE is the submission of the final draft. NCTC aims to launch the NAP in the second quarter of this year.

**N**CTC shared the latest working draft of the National Action Plan on Preventing/Countering Violent



# Ministry of Islamic Affairs and NCTC discusses ongoing work on P/CVE

10 March 2019



**T**he Ministry of Islamic Affairs and NCTC discussed ongoing work on P/CVE. These discussions were held during a call upon Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Ahmed Zahir by the DG of NCTC BG Zakariyya Mansoor. During this meeting, DG updated the Minister of work done since their last meeting. DG thanked the Minister for all the help from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and expressed his gratitude for the close relationship between the two institutions. Minister of Islamic Affairs thanked DG for the efforts by NCTC and gave his

commitment to work closely together.

As one of the key agencies of the Counter Radicalization Committee and a key partner of the Maldivian P/CVE effort, the NCTC maintains a close relationship with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, with both the Minister and the DG frequently collaborating and discussing work done in their respective agencies.

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs of Maldives is also the legal authority on enforcing the Religious Unity Act of Maldives as well as the administration of Islamic Affairs in the country.

# Chief of Defence Force meets with Acting Commissioner of Police and DG to discuss ways to enhance collaboration between the institutions

10 March 2019



**C**hief of Defence Force met with the Acting Commissioner of Police and DG to discuss ways to enhance collaboration between the

institutions.

During this meeting DG shared concerns in the contemporary security environment with the CDF and the ACP.

The CDF, ACP, and DG all agreed to work together to address the security challenges and maintain the peace in the Maldives through vigilant policing, preventive law enforcement, and rule of law.

The Heads of institutions also agreed to share information among the agencies for a coordinated national response to these security challenges.

## DG calls upon the Acting Commissioner of Police to discuss the contemporary security environment

4 March 2019

DG paid a courtesy call on the Acting Commissioner of Police DCP Mohamed Hameed.

During this call, DG discussed the current security environment with the ACP Hameed and called for continuing cooperation between the two institutions in preventive law enforcement, and CT and P/CVE efforts.





# A month of close engagements with the UK government

## British Ambassador to Maldives H.E. James Dauris pays a courtesy call on DG

10 March 2019



British Ambassador to Maldives His Excellency James Dauris paid a courtesy call on Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor. The British Ambassador's call came

during a month of close engagements with the UK government to enhance the national CT response of the Maldives.

During this call, H.E Dauris discussed areas of collaboration between the Counter Terrorism and Counter/Prevent Violent Extremism counterparts in the United Kingdom. DG briefed the Ambassador regarding the ongoing work in the CT and P/CVE sector in the Maldives and the work done in the Maldives in partnership with the UK government.

Before concluding the meeting, DG thanked the Ambassador for his contributions, and gave his assurances that NCTC will continue to work with the Government of the United Kingdom to develop cooperation in the national CT and P/CVE effort.

## Regional Coordinator of UK's Counter Terrorism branch proposes a plan of action to develop Maldives' National CT response

4 March 2019

Earlier this month, the Regional Coordinator of UK's Counter Terrorism Inspector Sean Kelly met with DG to propose a plan of action and ways the UK could help the Maldives develop its national CT response. Inspector Kelly briefed his plan to

invite a delegation of Maldives to visit the UK to observe the CT response apparatus employed in the UK and to meet with CT and P/CVE practitioners and experts working at the UK's national level.

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# A month of close engagements with the UK government



Inspector Kelly further detailed his plan to have subject matter experts from the Emergency Planning College from the UK to conduct capacity building workshops to develop a framework for a coordinated National Emergency Response to Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Maldives.

## Inspector Kelly briefs the leadership of MNDF and the Maldives Police Service on National Emergency Response

*26 March 2019*

Inspector Kelly also briefed Chief of Defence Force MG Abdulla Shamaal and the Commissioner of Police Mohamed Hameedh about his proposal. Vice Chief of Defence Force, DG of NCTC, Commander of MNDF Coast Guard, Commander of MNDF Male' Area, and the Commander of MNDF Fire and Rescue Service also attended this meeting.

Inspector Kelly proposed a team from the Maldives' emergency response to visit the UK on a study tour.

The Chief of Defence Force and the Commissioner of Police expressed their gratitude and welcomed the plan by Inspector Kelly and assured him of cooperation to make this a fruitful collaboration.

The United Kingdom has always been a close ally in the national CT and P/CVE effort. In addition to providing capacity building opportunities for law enforcement officials in Terrorism and Violent Extremism, UK CT officials have also helped develop the national CT response at all levels to include the private sector and the tourism industry.

# Maldives National University requests assistance in developing their graduate programs in International Relations

5 March 2019

**D**G met with Mr. Asim Abdul Sattar, Dean of Faculty of Arts of the Maldives National University. During this meeting, Mr. Abdul Sattar requested NCTC to assist the university develop a CT module for their upcoming graduate program in International Relations. DG BG Mansoor welcomed the request and assured that NCTC would be happy to help.

Education is one of the most fundamental pillars of



P/CVE and NCTC welcomes opportunities to strengthen the education sector of the Maldives to develop a resilient community.

## WEAM provides feedback from their latest women empowerment program and discusses future programs with NCTC

6 March 2019



**D**G met with one of our partner Civil Society Organizations, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Maldives (WEAM) to discuss their latest women empowerment program held in Thaa Atoll.

During this meeting, Ms. Shaaaira Saleem, Founder of WEAM, thanked DG BG Zakariyya Mansoor for all the assistance from NCTC. Ms. Shaaaira also discussed future programs planned by WEAM and DG assured her that NCTC would always assist in every way possible.

As the leading government agency on CT and P/CVE, NCTC seeks to maintain a close partnership with Civil Society Organizations to expand our reach and interact directly with the communities.



# A delegation from Maldives attends Capacity-Building Event organized by UNODC on “Violence Against Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups” in Tokyo

12-14 March 2019



A delegation from Maldives participated in the Cross- Regional Capacity-Building Event organized by the UNODC on “Violence Against Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups” in Tokyo.

The four-member delegation from the Maldives comprised of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Maldives Police Service, Prosecutor General’s Office, and Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services.

Through plenary sessions by subject matter experts and experience sharing by participating countries, this program helped disseminate promising practices and lessons learned in three following key areas of intervention: i) prevention of child

recruitment and exploitation; ii) justice for children in the context of counter-terrorism; iii) rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

DG BG Zakariyya Mansoor represented NCTC in this training, and during his time in Japan, BG Mansoor met with Ambassador of the Maldives to Japan H.E. Ibrahim Uvais. H.E Uvais applauded the effort of NCTC and commended DG for the work done in CT and P/CVE in the Maldives.

*“In this event, practitioners and experts from different countries presented and discussed their national and international experiences, the challenges, and success stories in terms of prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and aspects of criminal justice relating recruitment and exploitation of children by violent extremist groups. Maldives is working towards developing and implementing mechanisms and strategies in the above areas and much effort and work need to be done in those areas; especially in rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims and families. The event was very helpful in identifying key areas of focus and prioritizing key actions on the way forward.” - Superintendent of Police Hassan Shifau, Head of Serious and Organized Crime Department*

## Station Inspector Adam Naveedh participates in Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation in Cybercrime Investigations” in Sydney

19-20 March 2019

Station Inspector Adam Naveedh from the Maldives Police Service participated in the Regional Workshop on “Enhancing Cooperation in Cybercrime Investigations” in Sydney. This workshop conducted by the UNODC aims to strengthen regional efforts to enhance security cooperation in the cyber domain. As technology

advances, cyberspace has become fertile grounds for individuals with malicious intent to violate rules and regulations. Through programs like this, the region will be better prepared to deal with cybercrimes and enable the criminal justice sector to adapt to new and emerging threats.

## UNODC Conducts Workshop on “Using UNSCR 1267 & 1988 Sanctions to disrupt Terrorist networks” in the Maldives

26-28 March 2019



**U**NODC conducted a 3-day workshop on “Using UNSCR 1267 & 1988 Sanctions to disrupt Terrorist networks” in Maldives. This program was conducted in association with the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and NCTC. A total of 30 officials from 13 law enforcement agencies, line ministries, prosecuting authorities, and other stakeholders participated in this training.

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This is the first time a training on this subject has been conducted in the Maldives. As such, the workshop aimed to help participants acquire an in-depth knowledge of the UNSC regime and mechanisms, as well as an active command of the listing and delisting processes. The coursework also focused on developing the skills necessary to evaluate whether or not it would be valuable to list an individual or entity and assess the impact of the enforced measures.

In today's contemporary threat environment, terrorism financing and resource mobilization among terror networks is one of the key sustaining drivers of the terror movement. Trainings like this would help build capacity in Maldives CT practitioners and help address terrorist networks at the national and the regional context on a better level.



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