



NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE, MALDIVES

NCTC Newsletter - Volume 28: July 2019



Maldives Celebrates 54 years of Independence



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NCTC and UNDP Maldives launches “Youth Vulnerability Assessment”

NCTC and UNDP Maldives launched “Youth Vulnerability Assessment” in a function held at Champa Central Hotel.

Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi officiated the ceremony. In addition to Defence Minister, Ambassador of Japan to Maldives H.E. Keiko Yanai, Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives Ms. Akiko Fujii, members of CT Steering Committee and Counter Radicalization Committee, senior educators, and CSOs attended the event.

The research was conducted from November 2018 to February 2019 with the objective of finding the root causes and vulnerabilities that could make Maldivian youth susceptible to radicalization and violent extremism. Key findings of the research draw light to important reasons why youth become vulnerable enough to be coerced into believing in extremist rhetoric and choosing a violent path. The findings show that such vulnerabilities stem from feelings of exclusion,

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“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

Nelson Mandela



and due to the lack of opportunities available for youth in the Maldives. Corruption, limited educational opportunities, drugs, unemployment, housing, gang violence, and Violent Extremism were identified as key issues leading towards social exclusion and dissatisfaction among young people.

All the delegates who spoke at the launching highlighted the findings of this assessment was a valuable opportunity to recalibrate national policies to ensure factors that make youth vulnerable were addressed and to take advantage of the positive outlook by the participants of the study.

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 “ Our youth lacked a reference point as much of our history was silenced or erased. Without a source of moral instruction, many young people felt disillusioned & distant from their homes & communities ”

Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi, MoD



Findings from this study will be used to formulate the National Action Plan on P/CVE. The Youth Vulnerability Assessment can be accessed online at <https://nctc.gov.mv/publications/documents/YVA2019.pdf>



EU CT Coordinator Mr. Gilles de Kerchove pays a courtesy call on DG

14 July 2019

EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Mr. Gilles de Kerchove paid a courtesy call on DG of NCTC Brigadier

General Zakariyya Mansoor.

Ambassador of EU to Maldives, H.E Mr. Tung-Lai Margue also attended the meeting.

During this call, Mr. Kerchove stressed on the importance of security and a robust judicial response to terrorism as key areas to focus on in CT. He also highlighted the need for prison reform to include rehabilitation and disengagement programs and a need for strong political will to ensure all the plans and programs in place at present come to fruition.

Officials also discussed areas of cooperation between the EU and Maldives to enhance Maldives' CT response. This include capacity building opportunities for government agencies in Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalization.



Before concluding the meeting, DG thanked Mr. Kerchove for his visit and promised to continue to work closely with the EU to strengthen CT response and the P/CVE sector in the Maldives.

Dr. Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary of Australia DFAT discusses areas of cooperation in CT

1 July 2019

Dr. Lachlan Strahan, First Assistant Secretary of Australia Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade met with NCTC to discuss areas of cooperation in Counter Terrorism.

Ambassador of Australia to Maldives H.E. David Holly also attended this meeting.

In this meeting, officials discussed on contemporary global security environment and the role of social media in propagating extremist narratives. They also discussed the need to identify gaps in the system to

strengthen national CT response and the importance of cross-country information sharing given the nature of today's security threats.

Dr. Strahan also identified human resource development areas that Australian government could assist such as deradicalization and rehabilitation.

NCTC maintains a close relationship with its international partners to gather expertise and develop the National Emergency Response to Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

Defence Advisor of UK to Sri Lanka and Maldives Col. David Ashman pays a courtesy call on DG

21 July 2019



Colonel David Ashman, Defence Advisor of UK to Sri Lanka and Maldives paid a courtesy call on DG.

During this meeting, officials discussed the work done in collaboration with UK Government to

develop Maldives' National Emergency Response. Col. David Ashman also briefed DG on the Global Crisis Response Mechanism at the Joint Force Headquarters in the UK, highlighting the processes and procedures in place to attend to emergencies.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, DG also briefed the British delegation about preventive efforts in the Maldives and thanked the British government for their unwavering support to develop the National Emergency Response in Maldives.

A team from the U.S. meets with NCTC to discuss equipment installation and training in establishing a fusion centre

21 July 2019

A team from the U.S. led by LCDR Ross Peters, ODC Chief at the U.S. Embassy met with NCTC.

This meeting was held to discuss equipment installation and training in establishing a fusion centre in the Maldives. Officials also discussed areas of training to include counter messaging.

The team also explored community engagement programs planned by the Embassy.

As one of the closest allies in CT response and defence cooperation, NCTC works closely with the U.S. government to develop national CT response.

NCTC holds a panel discussion with religious scholars to explore their role in P/CVE

14 July 2019

NCTC met with a panel of religious scholars to explore their role in P/CVE. In addition to NCTC officials, officials from President's Office and Ministry of Islamic Affairs attended the meeting.

During this meeting, officials highlighted the critical role of religious scholars in P/CVE and discussed ways to increase collaborative efforts in the future.

Religious scholars that participated in the discussions highlighted the disruption and discord due to violent narratives by those who misuse and misinterpret religion to promote violence and the need for religious scholars to take a stand in bringing the message of peace and tolerance to the people.



The fruitful meeting ended with all parties agreeing to identify areas of cooperation and to continue to collaborate closely in the future.

Given the unique ethnic and religious identity of Maldives, religious scholars are crucial to the P/CVE process as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

NCTC attends "Emergency Response Preparedness" Workshop conducted by UK Emergency Planning College in Maldives

21-25 July 2019

NCTC participated in "Emergency Response Preparedness" Workshop conducted by UK Emergency Planning College.

This workshop brought National Emergency Response practitioners together to formulate a coordination and response mechanism during an emergency.

Initial findings of the Workshop include:

- ◆ Good capability within individual agencies
- ◆ Limited national understanding of risk assessment and required capability

- ◆ Recognition of the need for better joint control and coordinate of response and planning activities
- ◆ Need for coherent public awareness and communication
- ◆ Need more clarity on roles and responsibilities to organize the unique challenges of geography

A comprehensive emergency response plan is vital to attend emergencies at the national level to ensure a coordinated and efficient response from all stakeholders.

NCTC conducts Workshop on “The Role of Senior Educators in P/CVE” in G.Dh. Thinadhoo

4 July 2019



NCTC conducted a one-day awareness workshop for Principals, Heads of Schools, and Senior Educators of Gaaf Dhaal atoll. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Education and UNDP Maldives and with assistance from MNDF Southern Area and the People of Japan. This iteration of the workshop was held at Gaaf Dhaal Atoll Education Centre in Thinadhoo.

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 Mr. Ahmed Riyaz inaugurated the workshop. During his address,

State Minister Riyaz highlighted the importance of senior educators in preventing extremism and ensuring the safety at schools and the responsibility of being vigilant as leaders in the education sector of the atoll.

The sessions in this workshop were conducted by officials from NCTC and 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. 34 participants from 11 schools in Gaaf Dhaal atoll participated in the workshop. This is the 4th iteration of this workshop, with the first three workshops being held for schools in Greater Male' Area, Addu City, and Haa Dhaal atoll respectively.

Mr. Larry Schneider, Trial Attorney for Counterterrorism Section of United States Department of Justice discusses areas of cooperation in CT

22 July 2019

Mr. Larry Schneider, Trial Attorney for Counterterrorism Section of United States Department of Justice met with NCTC to discuss areas of cooperation in CT.

During this meeting officials discussed on the preventative efforts of the National Counter Terrorism Framework of Maldives, the organization of the CT steering committee and the CR committee.

Mr. Larry Schneider's visit to Maldives includes meetings with the concerning authorities involved

in the CT efforts, and to identify and give advice in addressing on the legal challenges faced in the CT trials conducted in Maldives.

The follow on actions after this visit includes; further collaboration with the NCTC identification of critical areas of assistance in CT, assisting the law enforcement agencies in CT related investigations and capacity building of practitioners who are involved in CT trials and investigations.

NCTC in collaboration with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences holds workshop on "Extremism and Counter Terrorism"

29-31 July 2019



NCTC, in collaboration with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, held the workshop on "Extremism and Counter Terrorism".

The workshop is the result of the close ties between the Maldivian and Saudi governments.

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Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) was established in 1978 as part of an Arab resolution to form the first Arab university specialized in graduate studies, research and training in all areas of security in its most comprehensive sense.

The 3-day workshop was focused on the following objectives;

- ♦ Provide the participants with the necessary skills to deal effectively with the issues of extremism and terrorism.
- ♦ Introducing global experiences in the field of integration and rehabilitation of returnees from conflict zones.
- ♦ Raising the sense of security for participants and imparting skills to identify the indicators of extremism and the characteristics of extremists.



- ♦ Identifying the factors and suspicions used by terrorist organizations to persuade young people.
- ♦ To enrich the participants' knowledge about the method of the various terrorist organizations in polarization and recruitment.

Where 64 participants from Government, Law Enforcement Agencies and Civil Society Organizations attended the workshop.



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