



NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE, MALDIVES

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President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Extended National Day Greetings



Source: presidency.gov.mv

The president expressed his most sincere and deepest well wishes to the beloved citizens of Maldives on the occasion of National Day.

During the official ceremony to mark the National Day of Maldives held on October 28, 2019, at Dharubaaruge in Male' City, the

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih conferred the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddeen on Ahmed Adam from H. Hikari and Abdulla Sodiq of H. Aamuleege, and presented the National Award of Honour and National Award of Recognition to 26 honourees.

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During this auspicious ceremony President



Source: presidency.gov.mv

remarked that the most important principle of nationalism is the freedom of speech to express personal opinions on politics, the economy, and international and domestic affairs. Furthermore, President gave his assurance that the government will not tolerate actions for mockery of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in any way, and neither will the government allow violent extremism to aggravate among the people, in the name of religion.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has participated in the ceremonial flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the National Day. The ceremony was held at the Republic Square at 0600 hours, early on



Source: presidency.gov.mv

Tuesday morning. Upon his arrival, the President

was greeted by the Minister of Home Affairs, Imran Abdulla. A special Dua was also recited at the flag hoisting ceremony by the Imam of Masjid-al-Sultan Mohamed Thakurafaanu Al Auzam.

Vice President Faisal Naseem and other senior government officials attended the ceremony.

National Day is celebrated on the first day of Rabi' al-awwal every year. The day is marked to commemorate the victory of Muhammad Thakurafaanu Al Auzam, ending the 15 year-long Portuguese occupation of the Maldives in 1573.

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“We have now come to understand that terrorism cannot be tackled solely through conventional security means; we need to dig deeper, and address the root causes poisoning young mind and fueling this scourge.”

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

President ratifies Second Amendment to Anti-Terrorism Act

10 October 2019



Source: presidency.gov.mv

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has ratified the Second Amendment to Anti-Terrorism Act this October. The amendment was passed by the Parliament on Monday, 30th September 2019, at the special sitting of the People's Majlis.

The new amendment includes elements which are essential to aid authorities under exceptional conditions in the prevention of the acts of terrorism. Early intervention strategies are one contributing factor to terrorism prevention efforts.

The act criminalizes supporting extremist

ideologies, including political and religious extremism, and fear mongering within society. Furthermore, new amendment authorizes police to make warrantless arrests for certain criminal acts that constitute terrorism.

The amendment also criminalizes the act of departing for war zones without authorization by the state. While the current Act recognizes partaking in a foreign conflict as a crime, the new changes criminalize all unauthorized attempts to go to any war zones.

Furthermore, under the new bill, the government will establish

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temporary detention centres for insurgents who return to Maldives from foreign conflicts. It also criminalizes withholding information about acts or plans for terrorism from intelligence authorities.

As a major important factor, the act facilitates the swift establishment of the rehabilitation systems for the returnees from the conflict zones in Syria.

Under the new amendment, the president is obliged to declare names of terrorist organization and terrorist warzones.

The revised Act gives the president the authority to declare it as an offence to travel to

certain conflict zones. of the world without permission from the government.

Hence, government has declared that Maldivians are prohibited to travel to all parts of Syria due to the ongoing civil war and the armed insurgency in the country.



Source: The Independent

President Launches the Five Year Strategic Action Plan

2 October 2019

At the special function held to officially unveil the administration's Strategic Action Plan for the next five years from 2019 to 2023, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has said that the administration's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is organized, definitive, prioritized, and time-bound, and is the blueprint for a new era of development.

It sets out realistic strategic goals that would help achieve key developmental milestones in realizing the people's hopes and dreams of a "Jazeera Raajje."

The SAP shall facilitate the NCTC's National

Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) for the implementation by the Government Stakeholders for the cause.

Being the national coordination body, the National Counter Terrorism Centre shall lead the effort of P/CVE in collaboration with the line agencies as well as the civil society organizations of the Maldives.

"The SAP is organized, definitive, prioritized, and time-bound—the blueprint for a new era of development"— President

Regional Workshop on Obtaining Electronic Evidence held in Kurumba Maldives

1 October 2019



The 3-day workshop on “Obtaining Electronic Evidence from Internet Service Providers in Counter-Terrorism and related Organized Crime Cross-Border Investigations” was conducted Jointly by National Counter Terrorism Centre, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate, International Association of Prosecutors.

During the workshop the experts discussed on how to effectively request electronic evidence data from international counterparts and agencies. Furthermore, a scenario based exercise on obtaining digital evidence was

conducted.

Amongst the 17 participating countries include prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, judges and lawyers participated.



“Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.”

— Aristotle

United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate Made a Scoping Visit to Maldives

6 October 2019



The meetings were held from 6th to 8th October 2019. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen Member States' dialogue with the committee, exchange views on terrorism threats, trends and challenges; and discuss Member States' progress in implementing the relevant resolutions and identify areas of technical assistances needed by Member States'.

During the meeting held with the NCTC, head of delegation, Ms. Elizabeth Joyce gave an overview on how the Member States of the United Nations Security Council deal with the UNSCR; 1373 (2001) (counter-terrorism measure passed following the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States), 1267

(established a sanctions regime to cover individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and/or the Taliban wherever located), 2178 (Preventing inter-State travel of foreign terrorist fighters), 2006-2396. She further emphasized to offer advice to the other Member States specially on the local context of the small island nations on the efforts of PVE.

DG – NCTC emphasized the importance on access to the UNSCR and information of terrorism movements globally and of new movements to be shared to Maldives intelligence sources. DG also elaborated that more authority shall be ensured to enforce security and prevent terrorism with the new amendments to the anti-terrorism act.

He further highlighted, the ...continued on page 7

interconnectivity issues which leads to extremism, and engaging youth in PVE is a new milestone agreed with the Youth Ministry. Situational awareness is a vital factor for the whole society on all aspects.

On behalf of NCTC, Director briefed on the main functions and structure of NCTC. Highlighting the demography and geographic spread of the Maldives and limitation of preventing the spread of extremism he stressed on the PCVE programs conducted, focused on the 5 domains of PCVE strategy of NCTC.

UNDP representative briefed on the moving and migration of the people of Maldives to different islands for different social activities that made the community vulnerable to extremism/ radicalization movements conducted by unknown religious groups and other extremist groups. Also mentioned that migration for education is the largest movement of people across the nation.

The CTED delegation conducted extensive consultations with various Government agencies, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and other

stakeholders, and assessed the ability of the Maldives to implement provisions of the United Nations Security Council resolutions that deal with counter-terrorism.



Source: @MoFAmv

For a way forward, CTED team recommends that Judges and Judiciary to be included as part of the CR committee. Furthermore, the report on the visit shall be sent to NCTC and relevant authorities of government after this visit.



Source: @HomeMinistrymv

International Consultant for NCTC and UNDP Maldives arrives in Maldives

27 October 2019

After a deliberate desk review conducted by NCTC and UNDP Maldives for the consultancy on strategic communication for PVE and NAP, Ms. Annaliese McAuliffe has been chosen as the international consultant for the consultancy. During this first mission she met the government stakeholder and NGOs who are actively involved in the prevention of violent



nctc.gov.mv

extremism efforts lead by

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the National Counter Terrorism Centre. These sessions were focused on providing consultancy on strategic communication on the National Action Plan and PVE in the Maldives.

Amongst the meetings, Director General – NCTC met Ms. Annaliese McAuliffe, consultant for NCTC and UNDP Maldives on strategic communications for PVE and NAP. This session was focused on the program on strategic communications for the stakeholders



& media involvement in PVE.

Media officials were also engaged during the visit and firstly, both NCTC and UNDP Maldives in collaboration conducted a socialization evening with the media official. Hon. Minister of Defence, Uza Mariya Ahmed



Didi was the guest of honor for the evening. Hon. Minister initiated this event to facilitate more interaction with media in PVE in the Maldives. UNDP Maldives resident representative Ms. Akiko Fuji also witnessed the event.



Director General NCTC emphasized on enhancing the working relationship with media partners in the P/CVE efforts with NCTC. During the evening Ms. Annaliese emphasized why media's involvement in PVE is important. And that there is a significant global issue of fact-checking, and that journalists should be amenable to this and aware of the global movement towards enhanced fact-checking and preventing "fake news" and misinformation.

Furthermore, a two-day communications training for the government stakeholders was held in collaboration with UNDP Maldives. More engagements during Ms. Annaliese's second mission would be proceeded in the late half of November, mainly focused for media training including working sessions with the stakeholder to complete the communications strategy for PVE.

US Government Aids FTF Rehabilitation Process in Maldives

27 October 2019



nctc.gov.mv

Senior Officials of the National Counter Terrorism Centre meets Counter Terrorism (CT) experts team from the Government of United States of America. They deliberated on continuing the collaborative efforts on the development of the rehabilitation and reintegration programs for returning FTFs and their families from the conflict zones of Syria.

The team is ready to provide consultancy in communications strategy and mapping needed in the area of rehabilitation in the Maldives. Repatriation has its limitations when considering the returnees from the Syrian war zones, because of their engagements with the world renounced terrorist organizations.

Further deliberation on the ways forward in the

rehabilitation process, NCTC officials highlighted on the necessity to improve the court systems in order to facilitate the CT and PVE efforts as well as the reintegration process of the returnees.

US government proposed on providing guidance on risk assessment and assist in formulating the rehab programs especially for the existing cadre of experts on other rehab areas in the Maldives. Hence, to build capacity to enable the locals to work as experts during the programs with an international consultant.

Thus, external assistance to begin a religious rehabilitation process is vital as highlighted by the NCTC officials. An expert to work with the Maldivian Government as a secondment is also recommended by the officials.

NCTC conducts Workshop on “The Role of Senior Educators in P/CVE” in Fuvahmulah City

24 October 2019



NCTC conducted a one-day awareness workshop for Principals, Heads of Schools, and Senior Educators of

Fuvahmulah City. 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 Hafiz Ahmed School.



Minister of State for education Ms. Athiya Naseer officiated the opening session. In her opening remarks, she highlighted the critical role of educators to build resilience in students providing and guiding them to the right path and address the underlying factors of

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radicalization. She urged all educators to take lead in playing a key role in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

The aim of the workshop was to educate and enhance the role of education sector in national efforts to prevent spread of Violent Extremism through enhancing resilience to issues of ideological differences, promotion of peace, respect, and tolerance. The workshop focused on addressing the issues of violence and societal divides emanating from ideological differences.



Dr. Ibrahim Zakariyya Moosa, the Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of Maldives

conducted a session on Counter Narratives. Other sessions were conducted by officials from NCTC, and Maldives Police Service, discussions focused on identifying indicators of extremist ideologies in school environments, and measures taken at school levels for prevention. The session further emphasized the significance of Counter Narratives and messages of peace and tolerance.



28 participants from 4 schools in Fuvahmulah City participated in this one-day workshop. This is the 7th iteration of this workshop, with the previous workshops being held for schools in Greater Male' Area, Addu City, Haa Dhaal atoll, Gaaf Dhaal atoll, Laamu Atoll, and Baa Atoll respectively.

“With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you can kill terrorism.”

— Malala Yousafzai

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