



NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE, MALDIVES

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President addresses nation at Republic Day function



Source: presidency.gov.mv

President Ibrahim Mohamed has stated that his administration is not one which would discriminate amongst the citizens based on their political affiliation or ideologies. The President made this remark, speaking at the official

reception held on the eve of 10th November to mark the nation's 52nd Republic Day.

Speaking in this regard, the President asserted that his administration would not discriminate between its citizens in providing services or carrying out developmental ...continued on page 2

projects. He said that the administration remains committed to serving in favour of all citizens.

Citing Article 8 of the Constitution, President Solih stated that all the branches of the State, and every citizen, should exercise their rights in accordance with the Constitution. He said that the administration would not waiver in realising its foremost duty of upholding the Constitution.

Highlighting on some of the administration's achievements over the previous year, President Solih stressed ongoing efforts to realise the pledge to maintain peace and stability. He noted the significant drop in violent crimes during the past year, comparative to that of the past six years, and said that the administration is content with the fact



that no Maldivian lives were lost to gang violence during the period—which is currently at a 50 per cent low, compared to the past six years.

Speaking at the function, the President also shared the latest details of the works by the Commission on Deaths and Disappearances and Asset Recovery Commission. The President presented the National Award for Special Achievement to 39 honourees at the reception held at Dharubaaruge.

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“Almost half of the world’s 2 billion children experience violence each year. More needs to be done to protect our children. Which is why today, on the 30th anniversary of the Child Rights Convention, I am proud to ratify two key laws on Child Protection and Juvenile Justice.”

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Minister of Defence Attends “No Money for Terror” Conference

7 November 2019



Source: defence.gov.mv

The Honourable Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi, was in Melbourne, Australia to attend the “No Money for Terror” - Ministerial Conference on Counterterrorism Financing from 6 to 8 November.

Speaking at the conference, Minister Mariya shed light on the Government’s

“Zero Tolerance Policy on Terrorism and Violent Extremism”.

She highlighted the importance of ongoing national efforts to tackle Terror Financing in the Maldives, and the need for greater international collaboration.



Source: defence.gov.mv

“As technologies develop and virtual assets proliferate, there will be a growing appeal to use online transactions and cryptocurrencies for financing terrorism. This is a risk we must stay ahead of.”

-Peter Dutton—Minister for Home Affairs, Australia

Minister of Defence Welcomes the Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency Team

21 November 2019



Hon. Minister Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi & Officials from NCTC Maldives met with officials from the National Counter Terrorism Agency of Indonesia, BNPT. Discussions focused on opening up venues for Maldives-Indonesia cooperation in P/CVE, including propagation of counter narratives.

The BNPT team visited Maldives from 20-22 November 2019, for a knowledge and information exchange program in regards to prevent the violent extremism (P/CVE) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) efforts of both the countries.



Furthermore, Indonesian team gave a brief on the Countering Terrorism and De-radicalization mechanism by BNPT.



During the deliberations the team had met with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Maldives, Maldives Police Services and Defence Intelligence Service.

It is crucial to sign a Memorandum of Understanding of both countries' FIU(s) as well as with the CT agencies, in order to facilitate sharing of information regarding terrorism matters.

DG Attends 40th National Security Seminar 2019 in Delhi

7 November 2019



Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor, Director General at NCTC, participated in the 40th National Security Seminar 2019 entitled "Transnational Terrorism: Evolving Threats and Responses" (7 - 8 Nov) in Delhi, India.

During the second session of the seminar, DG presented a paper on the "Evolving Challenges and Radicalization in Littoral Countries". During the presentation, DG highlighted the threats posed by radicalization in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which is home to 42% of conflicts in the world.

Below are some excerpts from the DG's presentation.

"The concoction of these conflicts, vital resources and the extensive trade has brought the region to a new chapter of turmoil in terms of security. The void created by this security lax has spawned various sects, groups and fighters pushing for their own rights and ideologies. These silent ideologies took to the battlefield, using ungoverned and failed states as their training and breeding grounds. Groups include the likes of Al-Shabab in Somalia, which operates extensively in East and North Africa, creating mass havoc ...continued on page 6

and spreading Islamist ideologies.”

“In the Arab Sea belt, the influence of Al Zawahiri’s Al-Qaeda (inherited from Osama Bin Laden) and Al Baghdadi’s Islamic State, led to extensive recruitments for their separate violent ideologies in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Recruitments were made by ISIS; and Al Qaeda affiliates such as Hurras al-Din and Hayath Tahrir al-Sham from far-flung states in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond to cater for their operations in Syria. Influenced by these similar ideologies, groups in the Indian sub-continent such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Indian Mujahideen and Hizbul Mujahideen became more active. The most devastating attacks carried out by such include the 2008 Mumbai blasts, known to have been carried out by LeT, claimed 172 lives and immobilized the economic hub of India.”



“To conclude, challenges in countering radicalization do not have their bounds. As with the successful networking of extremist groups all across the globe, the prevention requires an inclusive approach with a mutual objective. That objective should be to prevent the materialization of these ideologies into



violence. Each of the 37 littorals of the Indian Ocean Region is interconnected through the flow and currents of this bountiful Ocean. Radicalized targeting of the traditional trade routes and the shore facilities which serve as feeding points for development cannot be exposed to destruction.”

“Peace and prosperity require respect and tolerance to be factors in reducing the violence that is being sparked in the conflict zones of the IOR. Such violence and intolerance are the fuel which keeps the fire of extremism alive. Kinetic means are merely insufficient in countering such ideologies. Hence, community building and development measures are needed to give meaningful lives and identities to vulnerable groups. De-radicalization is a process laden with meticulous efforts by a number of agencies and underlined by patience. It can be achieved through awareness and resilience at all levels.”

“Violent extremism in all its forms is the biggest challenge to sustainable development.”

DG

NCTC's Consultant for Strategic Communication Meets with Stakeholders

16 November 2019

The International Consultant for Strategic Communication for PVE and NAP, Ms. Annaliese McAuliffe, met with key stakeholders during her second visit to the Maldives.

During this visit, she met key government officials, civil society and media organizations, to further deliberate on viable strategic



communication ideas and recommendations for the NAP.

Local media outlets were extensively engaged during the visit. A media training event was conducted jointly by NCTC and UNDP Maldives. Roundtable sessions were also held, where discussions focused on a comprehensive



approach for journalists reporting on national security, extremism and other politically



sensitive, hot-button issues in the country. Deliberations also focused on ways to counter misinformation, fake news and hate speech. Consideration was also given to the socio-economic factors driving extremism and how journalists could report on them.

Ms. Anneliese also conducted a special session



for MNDF officers on the role of the military in strategic communication for PVE. The session emphasized on how to develop military to media communications, and reaching the public with good peaceful messaging.

NCTC Officials Meets with the Consultant for Research on Women as Peacebuilders

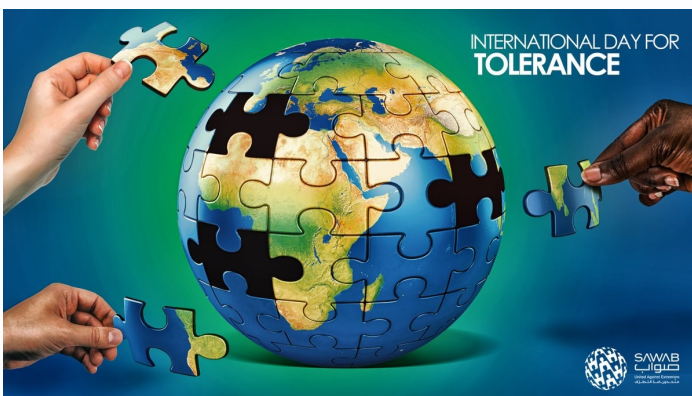
18 November 2019



This November, in collaboration with NCTC, UNDP Maldives is conducting a study on “Women as Peacebuilders and Agents of Change”. This study will facilitate greater understanding of the vulnerabilities and threats facing Maldivian women, and of the role they play as peace builders and agents of change.

Mr. Robert Templer, the Research Consultant, was in the Maldives from 12 -19 November to meet with stakeholders across the nation to gain a better understanding of the situation.

Mr Templer met with NCTC officials and deliberated on ways he could provide assistance to the project.



“There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women.”

-Malala Yousafzai-

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National Counter Terrorism Centre

Ameer Ahmed Magu
phone: (+960)-331-4670
website: nctc.gov.mv

Male', Republic of Maldives
email: info@nctc.gov.mv
twitter: [@nctcmaldives](https://twitter.com/nctcmaldives)



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