

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 35: February 2020

His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Reiterates Government's Commitment to Strengthen the National Efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and Terrorism

3rd February 2020



Source: presidency.gov.mv

His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen national efforts to prevent radicalization leading to violent extremism. During the presidential statement at the special

session of the People's Majlis, he noted that the spread of religious extremism and the expression of values which contravene religion are considered threats to the national security of the Maldives and that the

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highlighted that the construction work of the National Reintegration Centre being established to rehabilitate Foreign Terrorist Fighters who return from designated war zones had been completed.

In this regard, president further highlighted on the high level of priority to strengthen the religious faith of the populous over the past year, noting on going works to build 8 mosques, and that a further 12 mosques were being planned across 8 different islands over the next year.

Reference: <https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/>

Violent Extremism

“Violent extremism is defined as ideologies that radically and violently oppose and advocate against the spirit of the Maldivian Constitution, laws and regulations and social policies, in word and action.”

Article/23044

National Roundtable and Consultations on UNODC and INTERPOL's Support to the Maldives on Counter Terrorism

09th February 2020

UNODC, INTERPOL and NCTC in collaboration with Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment and the stakeholders of Counter Radicalization Committee and Counter Terrorism Steering Committee co-hosted national roundtable consultation from 09 – 12 February 2020. This program was funded by European Union.



During this four days sessions, representatives

from UNODC and INTERPOL, acquainted the participating representatives from the relevant ministries and the Judiciary with an Overview of UNODC's as well as INTERPOL's Programs of Support to the Maldives in Countering Terrorism and Coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Additional areas of discussions were on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and criminal justice responses. Further deliberations were on to support criminal justice practitioners as well as the judiciary to ensure terrorism and violent extremism-related criminal cases, in particular FTFs, are properly investigated – taking into account proper collection and evaluation of evidence, including electronic evidence.

During the program, breakout

...continued on page 4

sessions for the participants from security and law enforcing agencies were conducted with a focus on INTERPOL's Counter Terrorism strategy, capabilities and support to the Maldives in tackling FTFs phenomena further discussions were on INTERPOL's support in the fight against terrorism, especially as related to FTFs, with a focus on data collection and sharing, cross checks (including biometrics), operational activities, live cases support and analysis.



A separate panel discussion held with representatives from Maldives Correctional Services and other stakeholders to deliberate on PVE management in prisons. Participants were provided an overview of Regional Office for South Asia's (ROSA) Technical Assistance Initiatives in Maldives.

A key segment of the program was the session on building capacity of Maldives judges to adjudicate terrorism cases, with a specific focus on the newly adopted amendments to national Anti-terrorism Act 32/2015 and challenges faced



in cases involving R/FTFs (including women and children). This was a unique forum for judges to exchange good practices and tailor internationally recognized practices to fit their own national and regional contexts, by including in the curricula of their respective national judicial training centers, the South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges (United Nations CTED) to support effective adjudication of terrorism cases and other complex criminal cases. Further discussions were focused on areas of technical assistance and related modalities for maximizing sustainable impact of UNODC's support to Maldives in countering terrorism.

Representatives from National Counter Terrorism Centre, Maldives Police Service, Prosecutor General's Office, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Judicial Administration, Human Rights Commission; Maldives National Defense Force; Maldives Immigration; Maldives Customs



Service; Financial Intelligence Unit, Maldives Monetary Authority; Ministry of Islamic Affairs; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Maldives Correctional Services; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Youth and Community Empowerment and the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social service participated the consultation sessions.

Strengthening the Role of Civil Society Organizations in PCVE: Introductory Session of STRIVE Asia for the Local NGOs

12th February 2020



As part of the Joint EU- UN partnership scoping mission to the Maldives, UNODC, UNOCT and UNDP Maldives in collaboration with NCTC and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment co-hosted a roundtable consultation meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) who play a critical role to strengthen civil society's role in PVE. A total of 24 participants from various NGOs including, Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC), Women Entrepreneurs Association Maldives (WEAM), Vilijoali, Journey, Peace Foundation, Junior Chamber, Society for Health Education (SHE), Transparency Maldives and the Maldivian Red Crescent, shared their valuable experiences, concerns and expressed their strong support and commitment.

Creative Ideas and valuable inputs by the participants would be the basis for the scoping mission to prepare the joint report by the delegation from UNOCT, UNDP and UNODC, identifying the proposed participating countries and the activities that will be implemented under the aegis of the Project.



NCTC and Gender Ministry Conducts an Awareness Programme

24th February 2020



As part of our efforts in building capacity and community resilience to VE, NCTC and Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Service initiated a knowledge sharing program on preventing negative narratives of VE groups & the role of women in PCVE.



"Racism, xenophobia, and hate speech are among the root causes of terrorism" - President
(Ref: 2019-744-UNGA)

25 participants from different departments of Gender Ministry participated in this Programme. During the initial session, Dr. Saudulla Ali, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University emphasized on the signs and symptoms of radicalization.



The second session was delivered by Ms Hawwa Abdul Raheem, Senior Lecturer of the College of Defence and Security Studies. She focused on the social aspects and role of women in PVE.



"Working together is success"

Women in Counter Terrorism

By: LTC Amanulla A Rasheed

It is imperative to cover the following objectives in this article. 1. Understand the unique role of women in terrorism and counter terrorism; 2. understand the similarities and differences for why women and men join groups and become radicalized; and 3. Ensure that strategies to fight terrorism have a gender perspective.

According to Council on Foreign Relations 35 percent more likely to succeed when women are at the table. "women's participation in peace process", "women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution can improve outcomes before, during, and after conflict

Women play crucial roles in families, communities, education intuitions, law enforcement agencies and the boarder public sector, and can bring important unique perspectives and capabilities to under sting and countering violent extremism (VE) and terrorism radicalization.

Government and civil society have an important role in increasing the participation of women and factoring in their insights and experiences in counterterrorism efforts.

Hence, addressing terrorists' perspectives, it have shifted their strategies to include bigger roles for

women— playing the role of jihadi activists and recruiters through new media technologies.

Just as it is important to acknowledge women's role as independent perpetrators of terrorism, it is necessary to recognize their pivotal role in creating the foundations for sustainable and inclusive approaches to peace and security. Such as National Action Plan (NAP) should give more representation to women in major peace processes.

It is crucial that any meaningful approach to preventing violent extremism (PVE) should engage women activists and community leaders as frontline decision-makers. UN Security Council adopted resolution 2242 (2015). UNSCR 2242 emphasizes the changing global context of peace and security and the rise of VE as a key challenge for the Women Peace and Security agenda.

UN security council urges member States to promote gender-sensitive research and data collection on the pull and push factors for radicalization of women and the impacts of counterterrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations.

Women's perspectives on real experience on ground is different from what men sees in the community. Women been in the frontline see changes, such as decrease in their rights, increase in harassment, attacks on school girls are global examples, where it is crucial to address in mitigating similar threats to ...continued on page 8

women in the society.

Understanding the gender equality dimension can also improve terrorism prevention policies by minimizing stereotypical perceptions of men and women's roles in terrorism and counterterrorism as perpetrators and passive victims. Women's roles in terrorism may differ from those of men in the domains of recruitment, radicalization, and terrorist activities, and women and men often bring different concerns, perspectives, experiences, understanding and making use of these differences can help ensure a more effective approach to counterterrorism.

To prevent radicalization, help deal with challenges of everyday life, develop connections with government, institutions, and the wider community it is imperative to provide 1. a training and discussion platform for different groups (girls and women, boys and men) focused on non-violent methods of conflict resolution, drug abuse prevention, health, safety issues, domestic violence, etc.; 2. women's cafés and safe spaces to discuss topics such as women's role in society, religion, social, health and educational issues, prevention and de-radicalization; 3. workshops for adolescents with a focus on democracy, nonviolence and leisure activities.

For intervention focus on reintegration programmes for women returnees should be led by women's civil society groups. Such programs can include life skills and vocational training,

parenting, peacebuilding, economic empowerment, psychosocial support and trauma management, helping them talk about their experiences. And also provision of maternal care and equal access to business are effective to rehabilitate/reintegrate women and girls.

Abducted at nine to be a girl soldier for Kony: 'Now people call me a killer' - source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jan/08/abducted-girl-soldier-joseph-kony-lra-lords-resistance-army-uganda>

"A former Lord's Resistance Army fighter feels marginalized and abandoned, failed by the Ugandan government after broken promises of help and support..." Important factor is to continue use of dialogues, cultural entertainments to engage the receiving community as returning women and girls are shunned in most cases like in the Uganda case. (concluded for continuation in further research on the topic) "

Reference <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>

Prophet Muhammad - Peace Be Upon Him - said: "The best of people is one whose life is long and his conduct is good".

Enabling the Power of Quality Education to Prevent Violent Extremism: Workshop for Principals and Senior Educators of Lh. Atoll Schools on the Role of Senior Educators in PCVE.

20th February 2020

Quality education through professional educators can act as a barrier to recruitment as well as a critical tool to prevent violent extremism. Education can be effectively leveraged as a means to reduce the risk of radicalization leading to violent extremism. Hence, National Counter Terrorism Centre and Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNDP Maldives, Maldives National Defence Force and Maldives Police Service, conducted a Workshop on the Role of Senior Educators in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.



Total 33 participant including school principals and senior educators of Lh. Atoll, contributed their valuable inputs. This is the 8th program in a row reaching – schools in eight different regions. As the lead facilitator, senior researcher of radicalization and violent extremist narratives, Dr. Saudulla Ali, the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs of the Islamic University of Maldives, familiarized participants with insights of extremist narratives and ways to tackle negative narratives of violent extremist groups.



During this one day workshop, principals and senior educators of Lh. Atoll Schools, deliberated on the role of educators in prevention and countering violent extremism, with a view to identify ways and means to ensure that places of learning in Lh. Atoll do not become favorable grounds for radicalization leading to violent extremism. Furthermore, participants of the workshop reflected on developing learners' resilience to violent extremism.



Senior educators can play a vital role in bridging students, families and communities by engaging parents to reinforce values at home and in the community. During this program, NCTC conducted a special session for the island community on effective parenting and building community resilience to violent extremism.

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presidency.gov.mv

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<https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/> : (مركز بريس)

[\(Article/23041](#)

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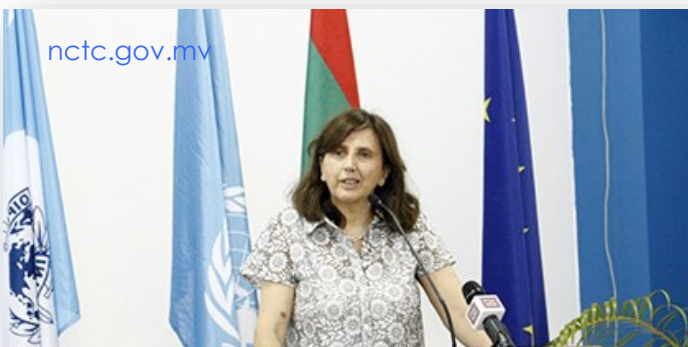
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