

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 42: September 2020

September 2020: Month of Collaboration and Capacity Building

NCTC, Sep 2020



Maldives enhances collaboration with international partners in the area of counter terrorism, despite facing multiple challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic and its recovery efforts. At the high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, H.E the President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih highlighted the enduring commitment of Maldives' in promoting global peace and security, "...we proactively engage with our international peers on every major global issue, from climate change to counter-terrorism, to trade and international institutionalism".

Furthermore, as part of strengthening Maldives' collaboration with international partners in the area of defence and security, Minister of Defence,



Uza Mariya Didi and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia Reed Werner signed the "Framework for U.S. Department of Defense-Maldives Ministry of Defence, Defense and Security Relationship". Referring to the Framework, Hon. Minister of Defence Uza Mariya Didi said, the framework would add immense value to the excellent partnership between Maldives and the United States, especially in the defence and security domain.

In addition to the high-level commitments, National Counter Terrorism Centre, in collaboration with UNODC and stakeholders conducted capacity building programs in PCVE. Similarly, NCTC conducted ...continued on page 2

meetings with Hedayah Center of United Arab Emirates and the Interpol, deliberating on future engagements for national capacity building in the area of counter terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism in the Maldives. Concurrently, NCTC engaged with Counter Terrorism Steering committee in its efforts to establish the CT intelligence Fusion Centre.

The Maldives Participated in the UNODC Counter-Terrorism Programme



Exchanging Good Practices on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning or Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Their Families, Including Alternatives to Imprisonment and Community-based Interventions

ADVANCED REGIONAL ONLINE TRAINING

September 28 to 30 2020



This activity was made possible thanks to the support of the Government of Japan

The Maldives participated in the regional online workshop organized by UNODC with the assistance from the People of Japan from 28 to 30 September 2020. UNODC is working closely with the Maldives and Sri Lanka to enhance operational capacities on the issue of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families and community-based interventions.

The experts of UNODC and its partners presented concepts and best practices on rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families and community-based interventions, which gave important knowledge to carryout the National efforts in the process.

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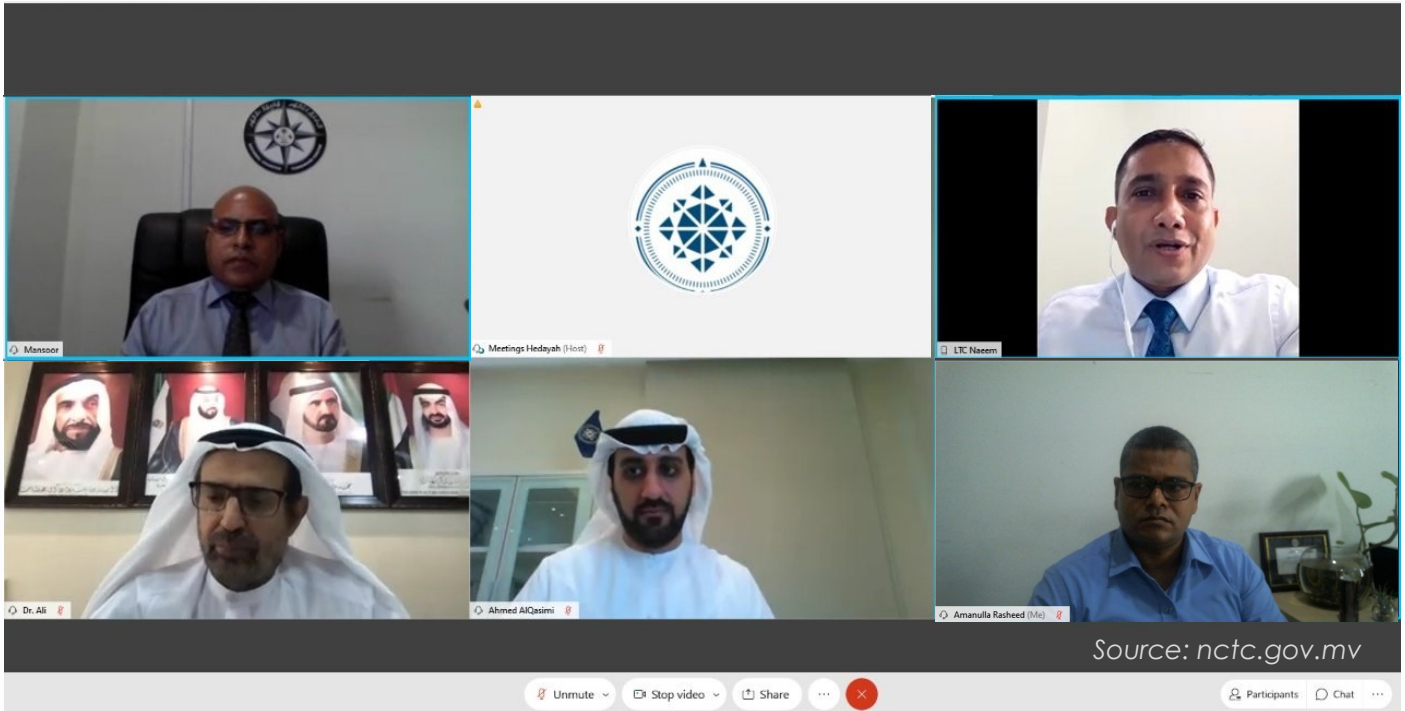
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Leadership of Hedayah Centre of UAE Meets with the Leadership of National Counter Terrorism Centre

23 September 2020



The Chairman of Hedayah Centre of UAE, His Excellency Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi, Executive Director, His Excellency Ahmed Al Qasimi and team had a virtual meeting with Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor and senior officials on 23 September 2020. The officials deliberated on strengthening collaborations in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Maldives. Capacity building on monitoring and evaluation of NAP implementation were one of the key areas of discussions.

Hedayah is a centre of excellence dedicated to using its expertise and experiences to countering violent extremism (CVE) in all of its forms and manifestations through dialogue, communications, capacity building programs, research and analysis. Hedayah Center works to enhance understanding and share good practices to effectively build the capacity of CVE actors across the globe to promote tolerance, stability, and security.

Hedayah's chairman have keenly expressed his

interest in collaborating with the National Counter Terrorism Centre in assisting in the implementations of the NAP, which is a milestone achievement of the Maldives Government in preventing and countering violent extremism.

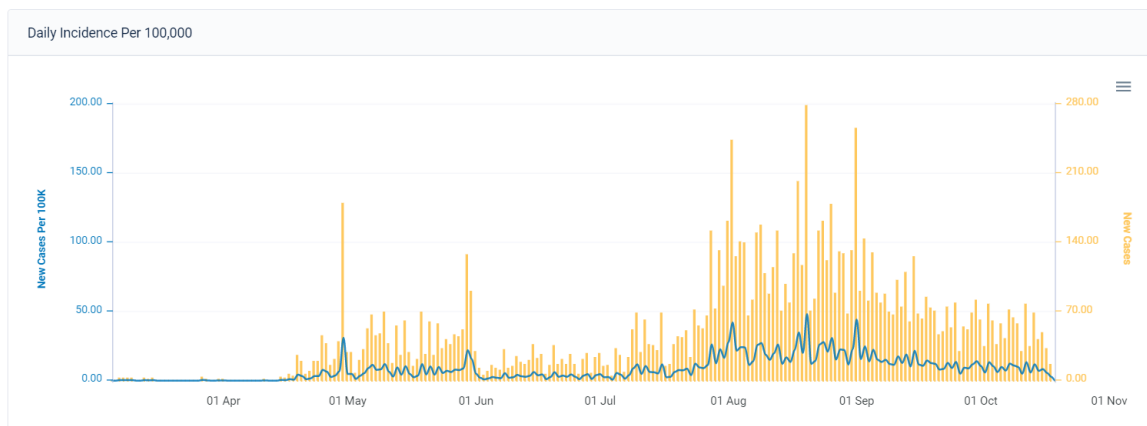
Hedayah have previously engaged in a capacity building event in the Maldives in 2019 on the "Role of Religious Leaders in PCVE", which is a key educational area in the Maldives society. Religious leaders play a vital role in up-keeping peace and harmony in the society. Hedayah is ready to assist in capacity building of religious leaders of the Maldives by engaging them further at international forums.

Civil Society Organisations also are key players in promoting peace and harmony in the Maldives. Hence, His Excellency the Chairman of Hedayah expressed that enhancing CSO capacity and experience as peace ambassadors is very important to the Maldives, and that he would assist in involving them at international level programmes.

COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATES

Last Updated Date: 17 October 2020 - 22:34

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recoveries	Total Deaths
11,210 <small>32 new cases today</small>	1,004 <small>43 hospitalised</small>	10,163 <small>90.66 recovery rate</small>	36 <small>0.32% mortality rate</small>



Source: covid19.health.gov.mv


**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

WORK SAFE



Sit 3ft apart
from other people



Wear a mask
inside the premise



Avoid socializing with
colleagues, inside or outside



Stagger work
and break hours



Disinfect shared surfaces
before and after use



Work from home
whenever possible




Ministry of Health
 Republic of Maldives



INTERPOL's Head of Asia-Pacific Counter-Terrorism Node Meets with Director General of NCTC

21 Sep 2020



On Monday, 21 September 2020 Mr TEO Darius Wei-Myn, INTERPOL's Head of Asia-Pacific Counter-Terrorism Node met with Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor, Director General of the National Counter Terrorism Centre along with other senior officials.

INTERPOL's role in the Asia-Pacific region includes continuing multilateral cooperation in counter terrorism, capacity building, and intelligence sharing related to terrorist activities.

Maldives have established a close working relationship through out the years and Maldives Police Service is the National Focal Point for INTERPOL. Hence, during the virtual meeting officials discussed on the way forward in

continuing collaborations in the national efforts on countering terrorism, and preventing and countering violent extremism.

Furthermore, acquiring assistance from INTERPOL in enhancing the Counter Terrorism Fusion Centre was deliberated during the discussions.



Impact of the Covid19 Pandemic on the Maritime Security Dynamics

By: Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Mujthaba

As we near almost a century to the last global pandemic, the world is experiencing yet another in 2020. After the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic on March 11, some of the states were already taking the brunt of the emerging crisis. The unexpected virus has not only taken lives at an unprecedented pace, but it has also deteriorated the livelihoods of the ordinary people.

As we go through the numbers of economic impact of the pandemic, some industries are hit quite hard while other industries are thriving through it. As such, smaller states like Maldives are on the brink of collapse while others are affected mildly. All these economic and social fluctuations are expected to affect the maritime security settings and its threat environment.

It may be a bit too soon to predict the actual impact to the maritime threat environment from the ongoing pandemic. But one cannot ignore the fact that the threat dynamics will eventually change. The economic impact could affect the tempo of maritime law enforcement operations. Further to this, in many countries (Maldives included) the security forces are occupied with the COVID related efforts.

In view of this, there are indicators of certain notable threats that could fluctuate the existing maritime security dynamics in the long run. One such threat is the rise in criminal activities throughout the maritime domain. Transnational activities such as smuggling of narcotics, weapons

or other illegal items could rise substantially.

The limitations of maritime security forces, in the case of Maldives, the MNDF Coast Guard, could also impact the enforcement of waters further away from the shoreline such as the Exclusive Economic Zone. As most nations with large EEZs such as Maldives grapple with IUU fishing, this could increase with the limited presence of maritime law enforcement vessels in the zone.

As most of the security forces, including that of the maritime domain, remain 'distracted' and engaged in the COVID related activities, religious extremism could also make comfortable space to expand their activities and propagandas. The radicalization and recruitment of extremists could also flourish. Targeting of maritime state assets or security forces, will have a detrimental impact on re-building efforts post COVID19. This was the outcome of the arson that took place at the island of Mahibadhoo in April of this year. The only sea ambulance assigned to serve the whole atoll was burnt out of service, leaving the public without a replacement for weeks during the peak of a pandemic.

Other maritime threats such as collisions and maritime pollution may also precede criminal activities. The pandemic responses have forced countries to go into lockdown, shutting-down or limiting the shipping activities. One such movement is the routine exchange or crew sign off processes. The inability to disembark from ships for longer periods of time stacks up to the point of crew fatigue. This leads to maritime accidents that could have detrimental

consequences on the flow of shipping goods, as well as on the environment of states. Increased number of maritime accidents such as collision, groundings and marine pollution has been an ongoing topic as we go along experiencing the pandemic. Two such incidents have occurred in our proximity. The grounding of MT Wakashio in Mauritius and the MT New Diamond fire off of Eastern Sri Lanka.

As few as maybe, the threats defined here will have an irreversible impact on the states if or unless they are taken into account. Hence, the mitigation measures need to be swift and cautiously assessed to counter the threats. Mitigation measures such as regional cooperation architectures that fan into joint maritime patrols, information sharing and capacity building. These measures are vital for smaller island states such as Maldives in maintaining maritime domain awareness. It is essential for MNDF and other law enforcement agencies to focus on existing international cooperation measures during the pandemic. This force multiplier is one of the best tools to be utilized as own limitations widen.

In order to harmonize the smooth flow of the shipping industry, it is crucial that all the sea ports remain open (even with existing restrictions). This is to ensure the indiscriminate sign-on and sign-off of crew and the timely discharge and loading of cargo. Sea ports should ensure that protective measures are in place. This includes ISPS related guidelines as well as pandemic related guidelines. It could be detrimental that either an attack or the pandemic affects the operations of the ports.

The countries that are most vulnerable to the pandemic are small island states such as Maldives, which coincidentally inherit the largest of EEZs in the world. Their ability to enforce these waters are limited to manpower and other resources;

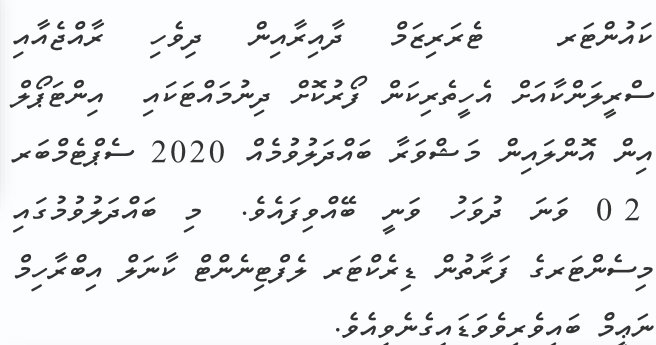
even during the pre-pandemic period. Hence the affects during the pandemic can have detrimental consequences in the upkeep of their resources and harmony of the maritime domain.

For these small island states, the recommendations and suggestions stated here can be of importance in strategizing the threat environment. Revising the existing maritime security strategies and revisiting the maritime threat matrix would also embolden the efforts to enhance maritime safety and security.

All countries, whether small or large, are experiencing tough times during this pandemic. Social and economic impacts outweigh most of the others, as these two will have a much larger impact in the long run. Vulnerable states such as Maldives, need to re-strategize and re-focus on the dynamics this pandemic is having on the security environment too. This can be achieved through an efficient inter-agency and regional security structure mechanism.

Acknowledgement

Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Mujthaba works in the Maldives National Defence Force as the Principal Director of Coast Guard. As a member of the MNDF, his insight in creating awareness on peace and security in maritime sector gives a great contribution through strategic communications in the Maldives.

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حرفوں سے شروع ہونے والی جملہ خبریں

نعمی سہولت راہ سوسرووسرووادی اسد سوومی

سرحد سر

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نہیں ہوتا ہے۔

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وَعَلَىٰ رِيسٍ مَّرْقُومٍ ۚ (مَرْيَمُ)

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لَا تَقْرَأُ فِيهَا كَلِمَةً وَلَوْ أَنَّ جَمِيعَ أُولَئِكَ فِي ذِمَّةِ غَالِبٍ

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وَسُوءِ مَقْصِدٍ، هُتِرَ مَرْسِدٌ، وَكُنَّ زُرُوبُ

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د محمد صالح مودودي د رسالو مجموعه (۲۰۱۹). د رسالو مجموعه د پښتو
د رسالو مجموعه سره سم.

(سُرُورِ قَاسِمِ، مَیْمَنِ دَیْ، جَوّ اِسْرَافِ سُرُورِ، دُشْمَنِ سُرُورِ) 1
سُرُورِ سُرُورِ (2020 دَی)

<https://www.islam4u.com/ar/maghalat>

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(سُرگَرِ قَافِی، مَیْمَنِ دِلِ جَوّ، اِسْرَافِ سُرُجِ دُورِ دَستِ 6
سُورُجِ سُرُجِ دُورِ دَستِ 2020 کَر)

<https://khutabaa.com/khutabaa-section/corner-speeches/313616>

مکرمہ سوچنے والے لوگوں کی طرف سے (2008)۔
 سربراہ، ممبرانہ، ڈاکٹر:
 سید محمد علی

۱. سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّيَ أَعْلَى سَمَوَاتِهِ بِحَمْدِهِ
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
 بَدَأَ خَلْقَ الْإِنسَانِ مِنْ
 طِينٍ ثُمَّ عَلَّمَهُ
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 عَلَى نَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ
 وَآلِهِ الطَّيِّبِينَ
 وَارْحَمْ أُمَّةَ
 الْمُسْلِمِينَ
 آمِينَ

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National Counter
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