

# National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 44: November 2020

## The Victory Day is marked as the Day of Unity and Love for the Motherland



Source: raajje.mv

National Unity is formed as a result of actions by a nation's heroes in their victories during the battles fought to protect national integrity, sovereignty and its people from internal and external aggressions. The love for the nation is the basic need to strive for the survival of a nation.

**“Victory Day Reminds Us of Our Love for Our Country” - President Solih**

On 3rd of November 2020 Maldives National Defence Force held a special flag hoisting ceremony in commemoration of Victory Day and published the 28th edition of “Addana” biannual magazine. The day marks the failed coup d'état attempt on this date in November 1988, an attempt by local dissidents aided by armed foreign mercenaries, was a dark day for the Maldives during which 19 locals lost their lives. The Maldives' independence was held at stake during this brutal and deadly assaults

...continued on page 2

on the capital.



Source: presidency.gov.mv

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, in a message stated in the MNDF “Addana” magazine described that the Victory Day reminds Maldivians of the importance of loving our country. President Solih further expressed that we must learn from our past and gather inspiration as we commemorate Victory Day. He added that the heroic actions of the martyrs defending our country and religion symbolise their patriotism. He affirmed that the Maldivian armed forces continue to display that same bravery and love towards their country, and that our citizens will always remain grateful for their selflessness and valour on November 3rd. He further added that the unity and compassion demonstrated by the Maldivian population on that day remain intact even today.

The President acknowledged the perseverance of the Maldivian people and thanked all involved in foiling the attack on our beloved nation. He added a note of appreciation to India, for their swift intervention upon the Maldivian Government’s request.

Victory Day reminds us to continue the national unity, cohesion and to be more resilient in all challenges to peace and security of the Maldives.

During the commemoration of the Victory Day, Minister of Defence Uz. Mariya Ahmed Didi in her address expressed her praises to the brave heroes who rose to defend Maldives against the terrorist attack of November 3rd 1988.

“But the noble example of courage and bravery shown by martyrs such as Martyr Corporal Hussain Adam deserves boundless praise,” Minister Mariya Didi

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Martyr Corporal Hussain Adam



# The Maldives marks the International Day of Eliminating Violence Against Women

25 November 2020



Source: [presidency.gov.mv](https://presidency.gov.mv)

The Vice President Faisal Naseem highlighted that violence against women remains a serious problem throughout the world.

The UN Secretary-General's **UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women** campaign marks the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (25 November to 10 December 2020) under the global theme, **"Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"**.

Vice President Faisal Naseem has delivered remarks on the International Day of Eliminating Violence Against Women, which was marked on 25 November 2020. Vice President reiterated the Government's ongoing efforts to prevent abuse and violence against women, stemming from its firm conviction in gender equality and human rights. Over one-third of women have suffered from some form of violence or abuse in the Maldives.

The Vice President noted that violence against women remains a longstanding issue that President Solih's Government has tasked itself

with addressing, even more urgently now than before, in light of the increased reports of domestic violence following the restrictions imposed across the nation in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government had established a designated hotline to urge victims of domestic abuse to report violence against them. Further, despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Government remains committed to implementing its plans to establish domestic shelters and safe-spaces for victims of abuse, to reform the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators accountable and to changing attitudes and traditions which are harmful to women.

"The Maldives, along with its international partners, must do the best it can to ensure that women throughout the world are treated with respect and dignity and can live their lives without the fear of abuse", the Vice President added in his conclusion.

The video statement was published on the President's Office Social Media accounts with the accompanying hashtag **#orangetheworld**, in commemoration of the occasion.

reference: [presidency.gov.mv](https://presidency.gov.mv)



Source: [@www.unwomen.org](https://www.unwomen.org)

# **DG NCTC Delivered a Statement on Security Cooperation at the 5th Maldives - EU Policy Dialogues**

*23 November 2020*

Director General of NCTC, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor delivered a statement on Security Cooperation focusing on Counter Terrorism, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Maritime Security in the Maldives at the 5th Maldives - EU Policy Dialogues Hosted by the EU Maldives and Ministry of Foreign Affairs held virtually on 23 November 2020. The statement by Brigadier General Mansoor follows below:

“Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of EU, Excellencies and esteemed delegates of the Fifth Maldives – EU Policy Dialogue of 2020. A very Good morning and a very good evening”.

“It is a great honour to get this opportunity to speak a few words at this session on the Interactive Discussion of Security Cooperation”.

“I would like to begin this intervention by mentioning that the Government of Maldives’ CT efforts are concentrated on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and limiting the flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). Additionally, maritime security is an area of concern due to the archipelagic nature of the country, which dictates a dependency on the maritime domain”.

“That said, the Maldives continues to make progress in bolstering its Counter Terrorism efforts. In July 2019, President Solih announced Maldives’ intent to facilitate the return and prosecution of Maldivian FTFs and families in Syria. The Maldivian government also passed amendments strengthening its 2015 Anti-Terrorism Act and designated 17 terrorist organizations, while designating one area as a conflict zone under these amendments in September 2019. The Maldivian security forces have conducted multiple counter terrorism operations in the aftermath of these



legislative changes”.

“One of the milestone achievement of the national efforts in PCVE is the approval of the National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism by H.E President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 1st of July 2020 with the guidance of the Cabinet. This has enabled to speed up the efforts made to countering terrorism and violent extremism in Maldives”.

“Some of the developments include initiating the process of establishing the National Reintegration Centre for de-radicalization of extremists and we have also appointed a Risk Assessment committee as part of these efforts. I would also like to note here that the Maldives has recently witnessed the first return of a foreign fighter from Syria”.



“With respect to developing criminal space in the Maldives, we are cognizant there is an ever growing threat of extremist networks and terrorism related activities. Whilst the world is moving to a new normal with respect to COVID 19, those who seek to exploit the vulnerable situation are also adopting new tactics to further their causes and while damaging the society”.

“This pandemic has resulted in a window of opportunity for terrorist organization to raise funds through illicit means. Innocent victims are being targeted in malicious or fraudulent cybercrimes, fundraising for fake charities, and various medical scams, where criminals attempt to profit from the pandemic by exploiting people in urgent need of care, and by spreading disinformation about COVID -19”.

“I would like to note the role of the Maldives Police Service and especially the directorate of intelligence in tackling the criminal and extremist threats. In addition, I would also like to note that we are working very closely with international partners including but not limited to UN Agencies such as UNODC and UNOCT. It is with gratitude I note the aid these organisations have been providing in terms of building national CT response capacity. UNODC has also been assisting us in capacity building in the Judicial sector to ensure the successful handling and prosecution of terrorism related cases”.

“With much of the Maldivian territory being the sea, it is inevitable that security of the nation is inextricably linked with the maritime domain. Recent attacks have highlighted the fact that terrorist actors active in the Maldives are well aware of the potential of a maritime dimension to their operations. Thus, the security forces are keenly aware of the need to increase our maritime security to address the threat posed by terrorist actors as well other threats such as IUU fishing and exploitation of our marine resources”.

“Excellencies, the Maldivian Security forces have been pursuing several landmark projects that would greatly enhance Maldives’ defence, civil defence, security and enforcement capacity. The deployment of a fully integrated coastal surveillance radar system, establishment of interconnected area command operational

centers, setup of the joint interagency operations center, expansion of the maritime fleet, and increased training and exchange programs with our international partners are some of the more salient initiatives”.

“Despite these efforts, there are many areas that require critical attention. Given the vastness of our maritime domain, effective surveillance requires additional resources, including surface vessels and aerial platforms. In order to respond to threats such as terrorism, arming and equipping our troops and providing them quality training remains a key focus area”.

“As the lead national agency in responding to kinetic acts of terrorism, Maldives National Defence Force is also working to formulate the inter-agency response, in collaboration with our partner agencies, and this also an area where international expertise and assistance would prove beneficial. Similarly, establishing mechanisms for international intelligence sharing, especially on issues such as transnational terrorism, is crucial. National Counter Terrorism Centre have also established a counter terrorism intelligence fusion centre in order to exchange information amongst the intelligence community and facilitate update information and deal with CT and Violent extremism related matters promptly”.

“In conclusion there needs to be a collective response to the phenomenon that is terrorism and build resilience within our communities. This will ultimately allow us to better respond to and prevent the growing national security threats like cyber threats and bio terrorism. National Security Services remain confident that by working with our national and international partners, we can protect and safeguard our national interests, and retain our peace and ensure prosperity for our citizens. Maldives needs assistance from EU to enhance our



# The First CSO-Led Joint Conference on Collaborating in Preventing Violent Extremism held in the Maldives

21 November 2020

**ENSURING AN IMPACTFUL AND AN EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN PEACE AND SECURITY**

Virtual Conference  
21 November 2020 (Saturday)  
09:00 - 16:00 hrs

The National Preventive Strategy  
The Role of Civil Society in Peace and Security  
Role of Youth, Women and Community Leaders  
Effective Communication and Online Literacy among Vulnerable Groups

ERI  
ConVEYE  
EUROPEAN UNION  
UNDP

The banner features a background image of a tree-lined street in a residential area. Overlaid on the right side are four blue boxes containing the thematic areas of the conference. At the bottom, there are logos for ERI, ConVEYE, the European Union, and UNDP.

Equal Rights Initiative (ERI), in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), ConVEYE Maldives, and UNDP Maldives, conducted a conference on collaborating in preventing violent extremism in the Maldives, entitled “Ensuring an Impactful and Effective Role for Civil Society in Peace and Security,” on 21 November 2020.

This conference was aimed to provide a platform to civil society organisations to share experiences, working with local communities, with particular focus on sharing their programmes, challenges and proposals on ways to address these challenges. The objectives of the conference included, amongst others, achieving a common understanding of the importance of collaboration in the fight against radicalization and extremism and to form an

informal network of organizations that will act to coordinate, collaborate and act as early responders to PCVE in the community.

Presentations at the conference were divided into four thematic areas:

## 1. PCVE Measures in the Maldives – The National Strategy

Three national stakeholders, NCTC, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice (Ministry of Home Affairs) presented at this session, and provided information to the participants on the national preventive strategy, the national action plan and the role of CSOs in the adopted approach, services provided by the State to

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vulnerable groups such as women and children, and also challenges faced by state institutions.

### 2. The Role of Youth, Women and Community Leaders in PCVE Efforts

Noting the importance of civil society, the second theme of the conference focused on the role of youth, women and community leaders in the preventive efforts. Two NGOs, ConVEYE Maldives and Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth (RAFY) shared their work in the Maldives, noted the importance of empowering youth to work as peacebuilders, ensuring non-marginalization, service provisions including rehabilitation and re-integration, and raised the importance of working with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000). Participants highlighted the lack of meaningful CSO engagement in the field, and services for vulnerable groups, especially those in need of psycho-social support.

### 3. Effective Communication and Online Literacy Among Vulnerable Groups

The third session of the conference focused on effective communication and online literacy among vulnerable groups. The keynote presentation under the subject delivered by ERI noted the importance of responsible sharing of information on the internet, teaching and fostering good internet usage, and literacy. In the presentation given by Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC), the NGO shared multiple empowerment and community outreach programs which they had conducted over the years under various projects such as Hope (Child Abuse Prevention Program), Grace (Girls Empowerment Program), CanDo (Child Advocacy Network of Disability Organisations), Shelter Support Program, Respect, Surfsmart and ARC Aid.

### 4. Ensuring Impactful Effective Roles for Civil Society in PCVE

UNDP Maldives and Transparency Maldives (TM) presented under this theme, focusing on enhancing the role of civil society engagement in the preventive agenda. The first presentation of the session which was given by TM, focused on the drivers of violent extremism in the Maldives, how CSOs can work on the preventive agenda, and the opportunities for CSOs to be made available by TM from 2020 to 2024.

The UNDP presentation focused on civil society as first responders and discussed the importance and benefits of civil society working together, and the setbacks of working individually without meaningful engagement and sharing of experiences. The presentation was followed by breakout session which allowed participant to discuss and identify different groups and brainstorm on the process to minimize the effects.

The Opening of the Conference was attended by senior members of the Ministry of Youth and Community Development, NCTC, ConVEYE Maldives, ERI, and UNDP Maldives. The Registrar of CSOs Mr Ahmed Irash and UNDP Resident Representative Ms Akiko Fujii addressed the audience at the opening, and highlighted the importance of the dialogue, and of meaningful CSO engagement in this area, and also of the sustainability of the CSO efforts in the Maldives.



# **NCTC Leadership Discussed Collaborations on Implementations of SAP and NAP with Minister of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment**

*26 November 2020*



On 26th November 2020 upon a request made by Minister Ahmed Mahloof, Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor along with senior NCTC officials met with the Minister and senior officials to discuss collaboration on the implementation of Strategic Action Plan and the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism focusing on the youth sector in the Maldives.

The necessity of identifying the areas of effort in youth and PCVE in the Strategic Action Plan was discussed with an emphasis on aligning the roles of Ministry of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment in the NAP to facilitate the

prevention efforts of NCTC. Interagency coordination in youth and peace activities was highlighted by Minister Mahloof.

DG NCTC noted that the youth vulnerability assessment conducted by NCTC with the assistance of UNDP Maldives is a vital reference in identifying the vulnerable groups within the youth community in order to address the issue of radicalization and extremism, which would facilitate the implementation of the SAP and NAP.

In conclusion it was agreed by both parties to establish a working group to coordinate these efforts in the implementation process.



# UN Resident Coordinator to the Maldives Made a Call to Director General of NCTC

29 November 2020

Ms Catherine Haswell, the Resident Coordinator of UN to Maldives made a call to Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor, Director General of NCTC along with other senior officials of both offices, on 29th November 2020. During the meeting both officials deliberated on enhancing the collaborative efforts in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism in the Maldives.

Further, they discussed on how the UN can coordinate in the areas of assistance by those UN bodies already engaged in capacity building and awareness programmes for the stakeholders in the Maldives on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP).

Among the UN's engagements in the Maldives officials deliberated on the development of the assessment plan on enhancing social cohesion in the Maldives in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Centre. Aspects of building a cohesive society is also part of the National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the NAP.

DG also emphasized on the necessity on conducting such an assessment in the Maldives and that NCTC would assist in conducting the

community level assessment based on the geography, history, economy, social, religious and political considerations on the cohesion aspect.

Hence, as highlighted by the RC, the UN would provide its best assistance in the implementation of the NAP and assistance in capacity building of security practitioners in the prevention and peacebuilding efforts in the Maldives.



“

The Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact is recognized as the umbrella for our common efforts of 43 UN and non-UN entities to support Member States and regional organizations. These efforts have continued in full swing despite the outbreak of COVID-19. Together, we have been able to quickly adapt to a digitally-driven environment.

MR. VLADIMIR VORONKOV  
Under Secretary General for Counter-Terrorism, UNOCT



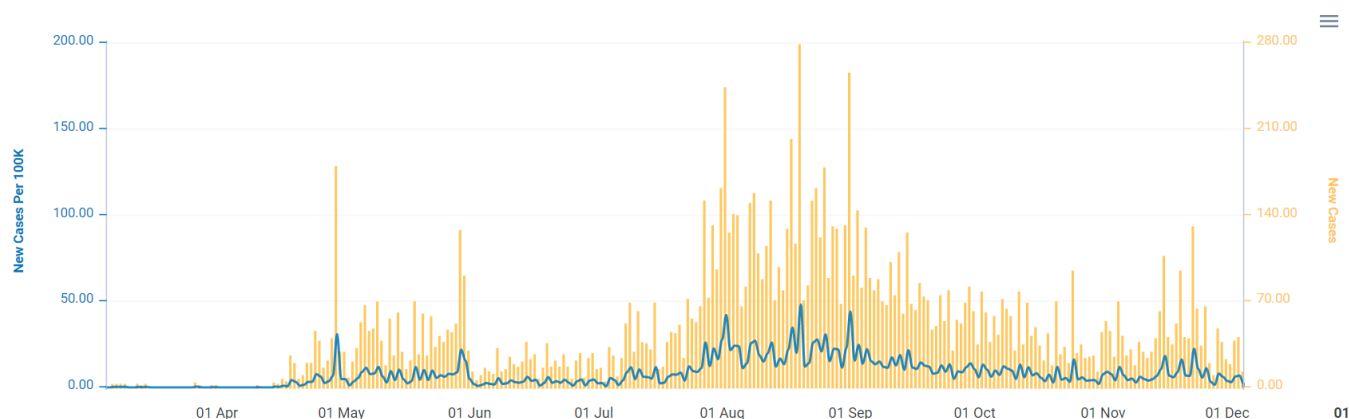
Source: @UN\_OCT

## COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATES

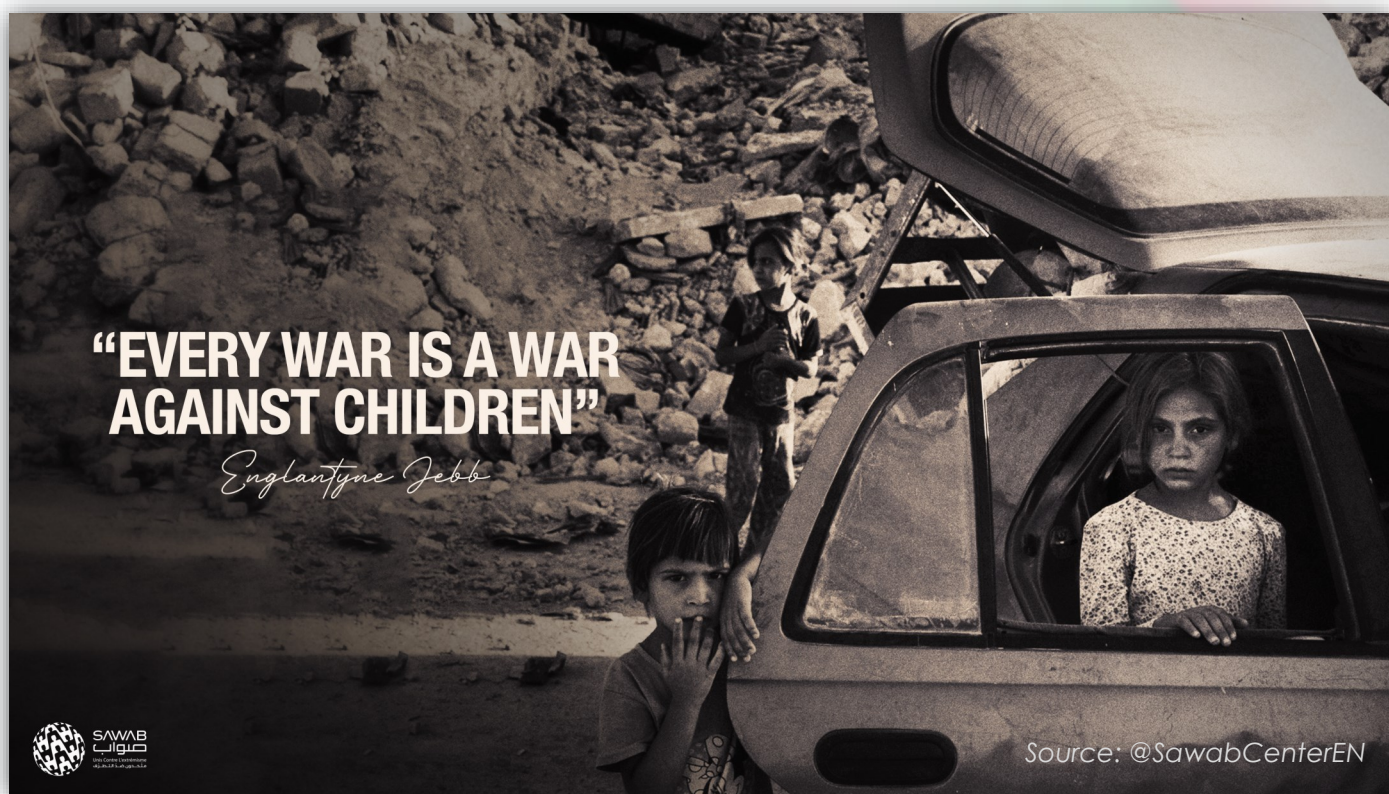
Last Updated Date: 05 December 2020 - 21:51

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recoveries	Total Deaths	Samples Tested (24 Hours)
13,159	841	12,264	47	2,012
16 new cases today	79 hospitalised	93.20 recovery rate	0.36% mortality rate	

Daily Incidence Per 100,000



Source: [covid19.health.gov.mv](https://covid19.health.gov.mv)





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## Promoting Resilience in Maldives (PRIME)



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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### Briefing Paper:

## Monitoring National Action Plans on Preventing Violent Extremism

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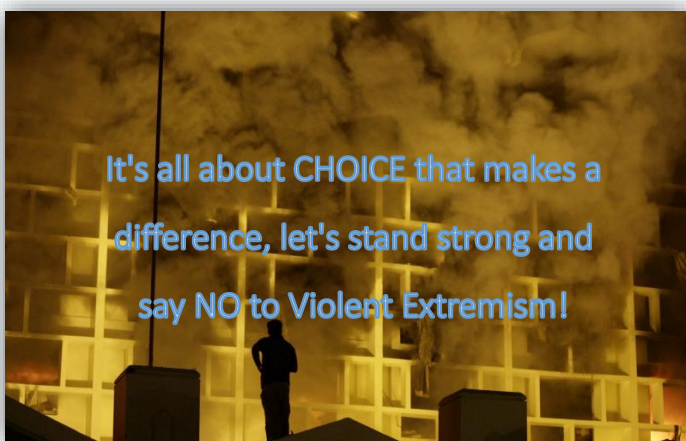
**Counter-Terrorism Project Sri Lanka and Maldives  
(CT-SLAM)**

## Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training

WebEx Online

9-13 November 2020

16 ستمبر 2020ء کو  
 لاہور، پاکستان  
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Virtual Conference  
21 November 2020 (Saturday)  
09:00 - 16:00 hrs

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 قَتَلَسَرُوعٌ    اَرْتَمٌ    سَرَكُوعٌ    اَرَامٌ    اَرِيحُودٌ    نَامِرُودٌ  
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