

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 45: December 2020

The Maldives Strengthens its Counter Terrorism Response Capacity

The government of Maldives in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom begins to strengthen Counter Terrorism Response capacity in the Maldives. This is a continuation of Maldivian government's ongoing cooperation with the UK government on strengthening multi-agency emergency response mechanisms. In 2019, the President's Office held workshops in partnership

with the UK government, where multiple stakeholder agencies participated in formulating a coordination and response mechanism during an emergency.

Hence, UK's partnership in building CT capacity of Maldivian security forces and government agency would create unity of effort in the Joint Inter



Source: presidency.gov.mv

...continued on page 2

Agency efforts to fight the menace of terrorism and violent extremism in the region.

Moving on with this endeavour the President's Office, in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom, held its first exercise testing the National Terrorism Response Plan (NTRP) on 13th December 2020.

His Excellency the President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih gave opening remarks, outlining the high priority the Government places on keeping the Maldives safe from terrorism and violent extremism, while praising the NTRP as the first comprehensive multi-agency document that will help the country work towards this end. The President outlined that the NTRP describes how the different agencies responsible for the Maldives' national security will coordinate their efforts to help the country respond to and recover from a terrorist incident.

The tabletop exercises were to test protocols and provisions, focused on the strategic level response to a terrorist incident. Participants included cabinet ministers, members of the National Security Council, heads of agencies and members of the national security services.

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Minister of Defence Calls for Regional Unity and Joint Efforts to Tackle the Menace of Violent Extremism and Terrorism

14 December 2020



Source: defence.gov.mv

On Monday, 14th December 2020, Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Didi delivered the opening remarks at UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s high-level dialogue and presentation of the Regional Preventing Violent Extremism Network in South Asia. The event was an initiative of the UNODC in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre of the Maldives.

In her speech, Minister Mariya thanked the Maldives' neighbors, the UNODC and the donor Germany, for the timely endeavor to set up a South Asian Regional PVE Network, and for trusting the Maldives with the huge responsibility of being the Network's first host country. Minister Mariya said, as terrorism and violent extremism continue to thrive in fertile grounds across the globe even in these pandemic-stricken times, there is a pressing need for joint efforts to tackle the menace.

Reiterating President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's unstinting commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and violent extremism, Minister Mariya noted that

the Government of Maldives has doubled its efforts to improve national readiness and preparedness against terror, with the National Terrorism Response Plan and the National PCVE Action Plan in place and ongoing efforts led by the National Counter Terrorism Centre.

Noting that the Maldives is welcoming back visitors, the Minister reassured the international community that terrorism is and has always been alien to the Maldives' national character, and that, Maldivians are still as warm and peace-loving as they have known to be since time immemorial.

She also expressed hope that the Regional Network would be an effective virtual coalition-building space for all governmental and non-governmental practitioners and stakeholders to share knowledge, information and best practices, in a world where enhanced cooperation and intelligence-sharing is the way forward.

"Terrorism is alien to Maldives' national character"

Minister Mariya Didi



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



SAN-PVE
Regional Prevention of Violent Extremism Network for South Asia

High-Level Dialogue

DEC **14** 2020

Held under the project "Strengthening the Capacity of Sri Lanka to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism through Effective Criminal Justice Responses" supported by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Counter Radicalization Committee Meets to Discuss on Concerning Matters on Violent Extremism and Radicalization in the Maldives

13 December 2020



National Counter Terrorism Centre hosts a meeting with the Counter Radicalisation Committee on Sunday, 13th December 2020. The session chaired by the Director General of NCTC. To begin the meeting a short overview on a radicalization cases coordinated by NCTC were given.

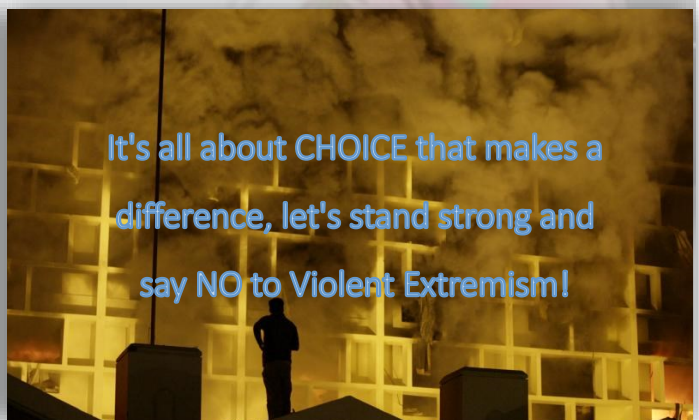
Members further discussed regarding legal challenges on rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalized community in order to address the issue of violent extremism and radicalism spread in the Maldives. As the alien phenomenon have two

extremes, the right wing and the left wing, which is crucial to mitigate, and maintain a cohesive and tolerant society in the Maldives.

The implementation of the Religious Unity Act is a key area to maintain the stability and to develop plans for counter messaging through strategic communications.



Meeting was concluded to convene a follow-up sessions to address radicalism and violent extremism in the Maldives.



National Counter Terrorism Centre Begins briefing the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism for Stakeholders

21 December 2020

Briefing the National Action Plan began on 21st December 2020. Key stakeholders for the preliminary briefings included the leading government institutions and those agencies who represent at the Counter Radicalization Committee



of NCTC.

Preventing and countering violent extremism is a priority for the Maldives. The government of the Maldives is committed to programmes to reduce these risks through a combination of security and



preventative measures that build on a central



theme of social cohesion. Top priorities in prevention include creating better lives for young men and women addressing different issues that will contribute towards reduction of extremism and to reduce the incidence of hate-speech and threats. This will involve all elements of



government and the broader society through the engagement of civil society organisations religious leaders and faith communities. In this way, the Republic of the Maldives will journey towards being a tolerant and peaceful Islamic nation.

The national action plan and all policies that come under it will follow these guiding principles: Actions

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to prevent violent extremism should be based on research, informed by behavioural science and evidence; Actions to prevent violent extremism to be reviewed by young women and men; Policies will work to support collaboration among the three protagonists—the individual, the community, and



the institutions through a “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach to ensure effectiveness, inclusion and coordination; They will enable and empower communities to resist radicalisation; They will ensure human rights, gender equality, the dignity of the person, the rule of law and the right to privacy are maintained.



The National Action Plan lays out the ways in which the Maldives will attempt to prevent violent extremism over the next five years. The Government of Maldives defines extremism 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. These include any ideology that deviates from the local culture, heritage, societal norms and customs aimed at fostering intolerance and violent actions. Any action or declaration taken by any individual or organization to obliterate/damage public property and label citizens as non-muslim and encourages theft of their property is also viewed as extremism. The Government of Maldives defines Radicalisation as the process by which people encouraged and led to participate in violent actions against individuals and property.

The Republic of the Maldives will continue to be a tolerant and peaceful country. In order to achieve this end, the following are to be achieved: Creating a more resilient, connected, and less vulnerable Maldivian youth community through peer, psychosocial, and community support; Improving care for young people so they can thrive in an environment where they feel comfortable and engaged; Enhancing education to improve skills around social cohesion, critical thinking, communication and online literacy; Strengthening engagement with shared national and religious values to reduce the effect of malign external influences; Ensuring that groups or individuals that isolate themselves from mainstream society are engaged through education and employment.

Maldives National Defence Force Continues to Enhance CT Kinetic Response Capacity

23 December 2020



Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Marines conducts joint military training exercise with the UK's Joint Counter Terrorism Training and Advisory team to enhance its Counter Terrorism response capability of its marines. The training continued from 16th November 2020 to 3rd December 2020 in Laamu Atoll.

The culmination exercise focused on Counter Terrorism , which demonstrated special skills on

kinetic response capacity of the MNDF Marines, including close quarter battles and marksmanship skills based on real-time simulated scenarios.

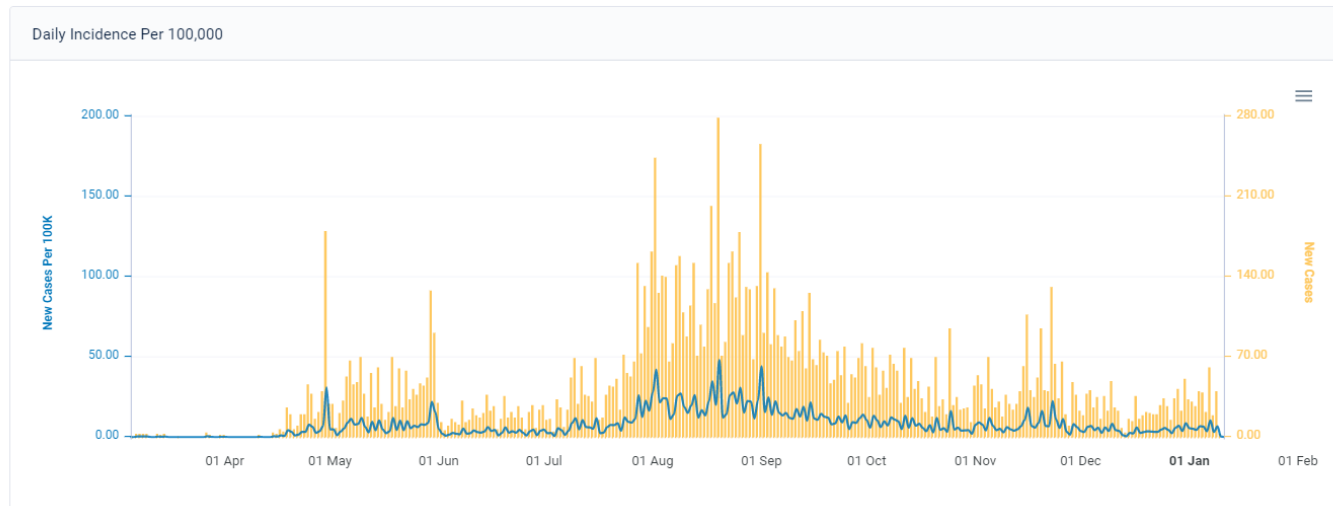
To end the training a closing ceremony was held on 3rd December 2020 at MNDF Central Area Command Headquarters, witnessed by H.E President, high-level government officials and other dignitaries.



COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATES

Last Updated Date: 11 January 2021 - 13:04

Total Cases	Active Cases	Recoveries	Total Deaths	Samples Tested
14,109	719	13,333	49	3,277
44 new cases today	52 hospitalised	94.50 recovery rate	0.35% mortality rate	342,119 total



Source: covid19.health.gov.mv



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South Asia Network on Preventing Violent Extremism

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Capacity Building

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National Action Plan on Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism 2020-2024

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Counter Terrorism Intelligence Fusion Centre

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Source: nctc.gov.mv

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Source: nctc.gov.mv

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

This project is funded by the European Union

From the People of Japan

Exchanging national experiences as well as enhancing effective multi-agency coordination and close partnerships with local communities and CSOs on SPRR strategies and strategic communication while preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism

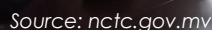
ONLINE CROSS-REGIONAL WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 1 to 3 2020

Held under complementary projects on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism capacity-building in South and South-East Asia funded by the Government of Japan and the project "Support to Maldives on Counter-Terrorism" carried out with funding by the European Union

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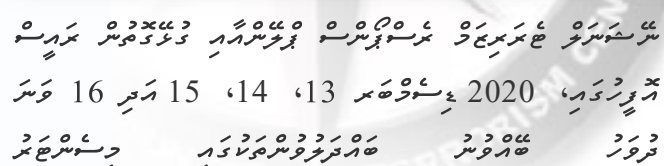
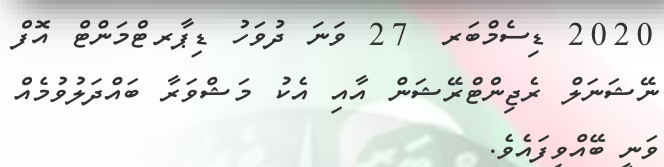
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GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN

[illegible]

Source: nctc.gov.mv



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فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ إِذَا سَأَلَ عَنْ ظَرْفَهُ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُمْ

2020 21

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اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ



د سړو څخه ډډه وکړه او د ښځو له خوا ډډه وکړه؛

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هَـ تَرَىٰ رُحًى سَرِيًّا قَدْ جَاءَ بِكُم مِّنْ ذُنُوذٍ عَالِيًّا أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَهُمْ أَصْحَابُ السُّفْرِ

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שְׁמוֹנֶה עָשָׂר כָּדָר

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