

# National Counter Terrorism Centre



**NCTC Newsletter - Volume 52: July 2021**

## President Reiterates Importance of Following True Teachings of Islam to Combat Violent Extremism and Hate Speech Against Islam



*photo: presidency.gov.mv*

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has condemned the actions of some radical groups during his speech to the public on the 56th Independence Day of Maldives. In his annual address, President Solih noted that the extremist views propagated contradicted the true teachings of Islam. He further noted the divisiveness of hate speech and

religious slurs against Islam and restated that neither action would be tolerated by his government.

Continuing his remarks, President Solih urged citizens to stand up against groups that sought divisiveness and violence to ensure sustainable

*...continued on page 2*



independence and harmony in the nation. He also reiterated the importance of following the true teachings of Islam to combat violent extremism and hate speech against Islam, adding that legal action alone was not enough. Along the same lines, President Solih stressed on the importance of inculcating faith and values in children through education and stated that the government was working on identifying ways of addressing these societal issues through the education system.

“As long as such dividing forces exist in our society, our peace and harmony will be at persistent risk of disruption. Our position to manage other major crises will be consequently weakened if we allow our national affairs to spiral to that extent.”

The government of Maldives has a zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and violent extremism, utilizing all instruments of national power through a whole-of-nation approach to prevent and counter violent extremism in all its forms.

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10.....! مَرْحَبٌ بِكُمْ

“True independence and freedom can only exist in doing what's right .”

*Brigham Young*



# NCTC Officials Meet H.E. Abbas Faiz, Special Envoy of President

10 July 2021



During this meeting, officials discussed the history of extremism and radicalization in the Maldives and aspects of the May 6 terrorist attack. Director General of NCTC BG Zakariyya Mansoor highlighted the work done by NCTC and the CT and P/CVE mechanism in the Maldives. H.E. Faiz stressed on the importance of collaboration and cooperation to actively prevent violent extremism.

NCTC officials met with H.E. Abbas Faiz, Special Envoy to the Government of Maldives to monitor the investigation, prosecution and trial of the terrorist attack against the Speaker of the Parliament and Former President Mohamed Nasheed.

## Terrorist organizations have many methods to fund their illegal activities

such as:



➤ Threat and blackmailing.



➤ Kidnapping for ransom.



➤ Trafficking in people and goods.

photo: @imctc\_en

# Eid al-Adha and Independence Day: A Humbling Time for Self-Reflection, Commemorating Sacrifice, and Celebrating Peace

*By Major Ibrahim Thaufeeq*

Since 1965, July has been a month of celebration for Maldivians. Before the Covid pandemic, Independence Day was preceded by weeks of preparation by government and citizens to commemorate the day to its fullest. Buildings would be lit with colors of the flag, streets shadowed with flags of all sizes. Jubilant students and government officials dressed in traditional dresses involved in cultural dances and vehicles flamboyantly decorated to commemorate Maldivian-ness. After all, who would not want to celebrate their Independence Day and pay homage to the sacrifice of its heroes? This year, Independence Day celebrations coincided with the blessed Eid al-Adha.

This year, Maldives celebrated two festivities within a few days: a celebration of religious piety and sacrifice with the rest of the Muslim world, and a celebration of patriotism and national sacrifice across the nation. As we celebrate our two biggest occasions, it would behoove each and every Maldivian to sit down and take some time for reflection. Let us reflect on the struggles of our beloved Prophets and our brave forefathers—reflect on their sacrifices and their devotion to the Almighty and to their people.

Their struggle to do what was right in the face of injustice and persecution. Let us humbly remember the bruised and calloused pages of our history painted with the sacrificial blood of everyone who struggled to make this nation better. Let us not let their sacrifice be in vain.



*photo: Pixabay//Kurious*

Let us reflect on the past year, the challenges and difficulties faced during this global pandemic—on the diligence of each Maldivian to stay strong and face those challenges and persevere. Let us pray for all who passed away unceremoniously due to the pandemic. Let us also comfort those who lost their loved ones

and their livelihoods. Let us reach out with a helping and protective hand—to offer our support and condolence. Let us also remember the importance of preventive measures: vaccination, self-care, and looking out for each other. Maldivians have always been a hardy folk, surviving plagues and tsunamis, and thwarting attacks on our sovereignty—as long as we have been united.

Let us reflect on the nation and where we are as a society—reflect on what we can do to be more empathetic and be less apathetic. We need to look around and look at the woes and plagues affecting our beloved society and think. Let us think what every one of us can do to make the society just a little bit better than yesterday. We can each do our part to make the society a little less divisive. Let us stand up to those who seek death and destruction simply by not listening to their deceitful and hate-filled messages. Let us do our very minute part to make life just a little bit better for our sons and daughters than life is for us today.



# Activities of the MNDF Contingent at IMCTC in Saudi Arabia



MNDF delegation attended an event entitled “Role of Technologies in Early Detection of Radical Terrorist Content on Social Media” by Dr. Majdal bin Safran, an advisor, and artificial intelligence (AI) expert. The event was held on 5 July 2021. During the presentation, he highlighted how AI could be effective in the early detection of terrorist groups’ content online.



The Maldivian delegation also attended a presentation entitled “Terrorist Groups’ Misconceptions and their Role in Luring the Youth.” On 8 July 2021. The session was delivered by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Maymin, professor of comparative jurisprudence, Higher Judicial Institute at Imam Mohammed bin Saud Islamic University.



The Maldivian delegation held a ceremony marking the 56th Independence Day of Maldives. IMCTC Secretary General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi and Member Countries’ Delegates attended the ceremony.



Members of the Maldivian delegation attended a presentation on UAVs by Maj. Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, Director of Operations of US Central Command on 29 July 2021. His presentation highlighted the importance of cooperation and coordination among countries to prevent UAVs from falling into the hands of terrorist organizations.

## **Staff of NCTC Participates in “Open-Source Intelligence Training” Conducted by Defence Intelligence Service in collaboration with NCTC**

*5-15 July 2021*

Staff of NCTC participated in “Open-Source Intelligence Training” conducted by Defence Intelligence Service in collaboration with NCTC. The training aimed at analyzing open-source content, especially social media platforms to identify and analyze content and pattern. The training was conducted by subject matter experts from Defence Intelligence Service.

The social mediascape today is highly polarizing and conducive to creating discord and propagate messages of violence. Therefore, it is vital for CT and P/CVE practitioners to gain analytical skills to

monitor social media and other sources of open-source intelligence to infer trends and patterns of terrorist and violent extremist groups and individuals.

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## **NCTC Conducts a Session on Terrorism for Students of Basic Aviation Security Course**

*12 July 2021*



NCTC conducted a session on terrorism for students of Basic Aviation Security Course conducted by Aviation Security Command.

The session was conducted by Head of Research and Publications of NCTC Major Ibrahim Thaufeeq and highlighted definitions of terrorism, developing trends and tendencies in terrorism in the aviation industry, and discussed ways to

prevent terrorism and violent extremism in the aviation industry.

Since critical infrastructure such as airports and utilities are prime targets for terrorism for their symbolism and strategic value to the nation, efficient, effective, and active security is vital to deter threats, and mitigate and recover from attacks should there be any incidents.



# UNODC Conducts Online Regional Training “Advanced Training on Mainstreaming Gender into Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism”

14-15 July 2021



UNODC Conducted online regional training “Advanced Training on Mainstreaming Gender into Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism.” 32 individuals from various government stakeholders participated in the 20day program.

The training discussed addressing gender-related challenges in CT and PVE policy and focusing on women’s participation in national frameworks, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

As half of the population are women, their active participation is vital for policies to be effective and sustainable. Engaging and empowering women further expands their role as peace-builders and agents of change in the society.

*“Counter terrorism and violent extremism is something people do not talk about every day. Yet the threats of terrorism have increased in recent years and have become more interlinked at local, regional and international levels. Moreover, women of all the ages are increasingly becoming victims of these acts. Apart from that, women work with regional entities to support and implement the strategies to strengthen gender mainstreaming processes and interventions to prevent violent extremism. “Advance Training on Mainstreaming Gender into Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism” made us hear about stories of strong and brave women around the globe.” ~ Lieutenant Aishath Hanan (Participant from MNDF)*

## Latest Update

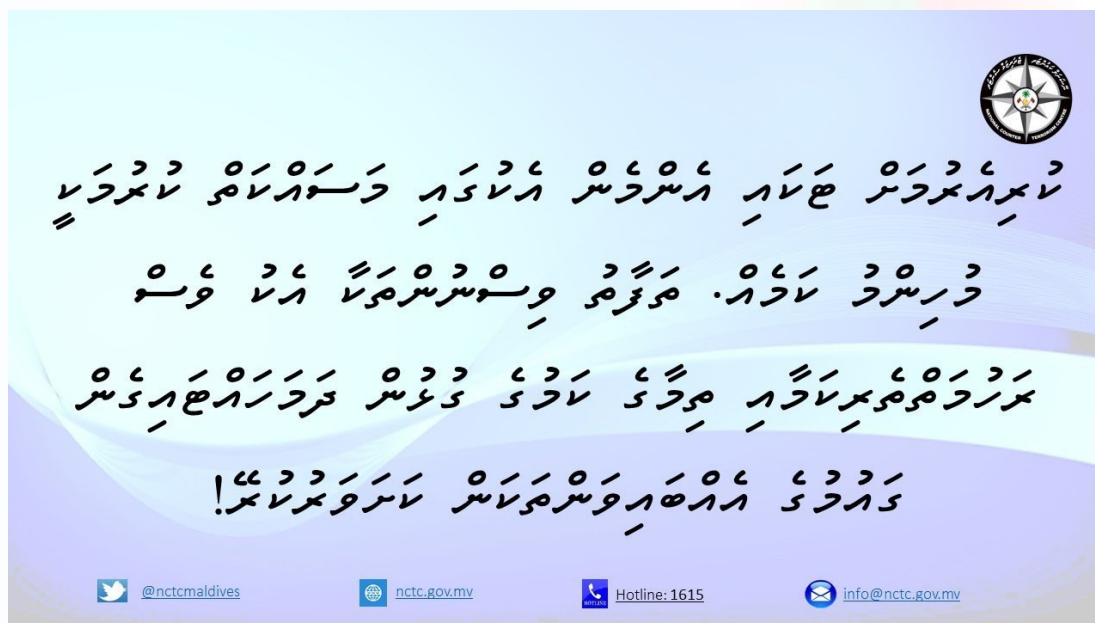


**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

## Deaths

Industrial/islands  
used for other  
purposes

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from @hpa_mv
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**PAGE 8**



۱- سَمْعُكَ ۲- سَمْعُكَ ۳- سَمْعُكَ

سَمْعُوْنُ اِبْرٰهِيْمَ

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يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، ارْجِعُوا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ  
فَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ؟ لَوْ أَنَّنَا  
نَعْلَمُ السِّرَّ الَّذِي فِي أَرْوَاحِهِمْ  
لَقَدْ جَعَلْنَا لَكُم بُرْهَانًا مِّنْهُ  
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ 10 ...

اَسْمٰى رَزٰزِرْ وَّ اِصْحٰبِ قَوْسٍ فِىْ فُرُجٍ مِّمَّا رَسَمْتَ،  
 اَللّٰهُ، رَزَاغِ سَرِّ رَزٰزِرْ قَوٰى فَوْفِ قَوْسٍ فِىْ فُرُجٍ مِّمَّا رَسَمْتَ  
 قَوْمٌ مِّنْهُ."

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1. مسند أحمد ( 38 / 474 )
2. رواه أحمد ومسلم

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 ذوالرحيم خان صاحب      اڳوڻا ميمبر      نواب محمد  
 " سر محمد خان ميمبر      " محمد محمد خان      ٽي سرڌار  
 نواب محمد خان      2021 جي 12 مهينا 12  
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National Counter  
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