

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 55: January 2022

Secretary General of IMCTC Meets With NCTC During Official Visit to the Maldives

24 January 2022



Secretary General of Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition Major General Mohammed bin Saeed al-Moghedi and his delegation met with DG and officials of NCTC. The Secretary General is in the Maldives on an invitation by the Chief of Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamal.

During the meeting, officials from both delegations discussed various challenges facing the Maldives. Officials also discussed areas of

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collaboration between NCTC and IMCTC to strengthen capacity in CT and P/CVE.

A contingent of Maldives National Defence Force has been stationed at IMCTC Headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia since January 2020, as international collaboration is vital to address contemporary security threats that undermine global peace, stability, and prosperity.



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“Preventing conflict means going back to basics - strengthening institutions and building resilient societies.”

Antonio Guterres, UNSG

NCTC Officials Participate in Validation Meeting of “Badhahi Media Campaign”

31 January 2022



file photo: A past message posted by @BadhahiMC

NCTC officials participated in the content validation meeting of “Badhahi Media Campaign” held by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Badhahi is a holistic social cohesion messaging campaign run by the Ministry of Home Affairs with assistance from UNDP Maldives and funded by the EU. The campaign promotes peace, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

One fundamental pillar of P/CVE is increasing resilience in a community through tolerance and respect for diversity. As such, Badhahi campaign would greatly enhance the preventive efforts of the Maldives.

Activities of the MNDF Contingent at IMCTC in Saudi Arabia

الائتلاف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



MNDF delegation attended a presentation organized at IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh on “Challenges of Using Armed Forces to Support Civilian Government in Counterterrorism Efforts” delivered by Lt. Col. Hamid Karim, Delegate of Pakistan on the 4th of January. During the presentation, he explored some of the concepts of stabilization and support for civil authorities in countering terrorism.



The Maldivian delegation also attended an event entitled an event titled “Online Extremism; Challenge and How to Counter it” held on the 19th of January. Dr. Fayez Al-Shehri, member of the Saudi Shura Council and an expert on online media, talked about online extremism, its techniques, and how to deal with it.

Staff of NCTC Participates in “Developing Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark web handling and Digital Forensics” Workshop

10-11 January 2022

Staff of NCTC participated in the first Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Workshop on “Developing Regional Cyber Security Capabilities on Defensive operations, Deep/Dark Web handling and Digital Forensics” hosted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India in association with National Forensics Science University, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and the Secretariat of the Colombo Security Conclave.

The two-day program was attended by delegates from member and observer states of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) including Sri Lanka,

Maldives, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Bangladesh.



NCTC Conducts an Awareness Session for Judges in Partnership with Department of Judicial Administration

11 January 2022



NCTC conducted an awareness session for judges in partnership with Department of Judicial Administration.

The session covered basics of terrorism and violent extremism, how to prevent terrorism and violent extremism, and strengthening the role of judges in

the criminal justice response to terrorism. The session was attended by magistrates of Sh, N, R, B and ADh atoll.

This session is a continuation of government's effort in the whole of nation approach to promote peace in the Maldives and strengthen criminal



NCTC Conducts Awareness Session for Senior Educators in Collaboration with Ministry of Education

13 January 2022



NCTC conducted a one-day program for participants of the orientation program for newly appointed principals held by Ministry of Education. The sessions were conducted in collaboration with Islamic University of the Maldives and covered the role of senior educators in P/CVE.



The sessions covered the basics of terrorism and violent extremism with an Islamic perspective on extremism and how to deal with issues in the school environment. The program concluded with a group discussion.

As education is a core component of building resilience in a society across various domains,



education is also included as one of the five pillars in the National P/CVE Strategy. Education sector is also a fundamental area of interest in the NAP on P/CVE.



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaa Res” in Collaboration with NCTC

26-30 January 2022



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment in collaboration with NCTC conducted a “Hafthaa Res” program in Fuvahmulah City.

The four-day program included sessions for teachers, youth, local leaders, and CSOs. The objective of these sessions is to foster community cohesion, friendliness, and build a harmonious society, as well as to address societal issues and raise awareness among citizens and youths and improve psychosocial wellbeing of the community. In addition to the awareness sessions, refreshments with entertainment events were hosted by the island community.



In addition to Youth Ministry, NCTC partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, and Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to conduct the sessions for their respective sectors.



Establishing social cohesion through community engagement and outreach is vital for spreading awareness, empowering communities, and developing and maintaining a well-informed, cohesive and resilient society.



NCTC Officials Participate in “Training of Trainers Capacity Building Opportunity in the Maldives: Engaging Youth for Social Cohesion” Conducted by UNESCO

31 January 2022

NCTC officials attended a virtual program titled “Training of Trainers Capacity Building Opportunity in the Maldives: Engaging Youth for Social Cohesion” organized by UNESCO’s New Delhi Cluster Office and the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

The training aimed to build a pool of 300 competent instructors trained on methodologies

related to developing social cohesion among youth in South Asia, who will be able to impart key skills and knowledge to their own communities.

The program was targeted at practitioners involved in PVE programs and resilience building programs for youth. In addition to NCTC, various government institutions and CSOs participated in the program.

Analyzing Rise of Civil Society and its Roles

Major Ibrahim Thaufeeq

Civil society is the space that exists between the state and the people, which drives social movement, and plays the vital role of making the state accountable to society’s demands leading to democratization



and strengthening of existing democratic processes. This essay presents the role of civil society and how it works using a case study of a civil society movement in Taiwan that started on ethical consumer movements during the eighties and the nineties that mobilized other social movements to affect policy.

Before exploring civil society and its influence on the state, it is important to look at the state itself. The notion of state is that they have the legitimate use of power and have the monopoly on violence.¹ Tilly makes the same point about coercion and the idea of the state offering protection for the citizens.² When modern society evolved from this centralized

control of authority, the question of who manages the violence came about and Tilly presents three models of governments depending on who had the authority: Jeffersonian democracy, petty despotism, and a military junta.³

Jeffersonian democracy is the ideal model and civil society has continues to play an essential role over the years to propagate this democratic process.

Kaldor writes about the rise of civil societies after the end of World War II in Latin America and eastern Europe—both cases had people opposing militarized regimes.⁴

...continued on page 9

Essentially, overthrow of their respective regimes was necessary to change society itself. This behavior ties closely with Tilly's and Roth's approaches to states about having monopoly over violence, but it does not cover the broader scope of civil society today. For example, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also make up civil society but Kaldor argues NGOs are tamed social movements who are "institutionalized and professionalized" instead of disappearing or turning violent.⁵ In essence, NGOs today are negotiating partners of the state, even if in the opposition. Civil society can also form because of the need for mobilizing population for democratization as seen in Hong Kong that involved both social and political actors.⁶

When defining civil society, the evolution of the concept over the years is indicative of the cause-based nature of civil society itself. Kaldor covers it extensively in her article *the Idea of Global Civil Society*. The main points she highlights are how civil societies started tied to the state until the nineteenth century when it separated from the state.⁷ Likewise, in the twentieth century, civil society was operating in the realm of culture, ideology, and political debate; basically involved in all aspects of society. Kaldor argues though that the changing definitions did not change the broader themes of the movement: it was always "about rule-governed society based on the consent of individuals" stemming from a social contract among individuals.⁸ Kaldor

condenses all these ideas by defining civil society as "the process through which individuals negotiate, argue, struggle against or agree with each other with the centers of political and economic authority."⁹ Hong Kong is a case in point where a strong civil society since the colonial days fought for their autonomy and more importantly, has inspired mobilization of civil society in

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"One of the most important roles of civil society is its ability to create political space to directly address the government, appeal to the international community, and make concessions to address the demands of activists and intellectuals."
.....

mainland China.¹⁰

As a result, these two separate but interconnected civil societies acted as information hubs for organizing and exchanging ideas and provided a platform for activists, similar to the earlier civil societies in Latin America and eastern Europe opposing military regimes.

Upon closer examination, civil society's role has broadened and expanded from its earlier days. Even though Tilly does not explicitly say it, he provides resistance to war making and state making that lead authorities to making compromises to appease the public and the rise of democratic institutions such as courts as the earlier functions of civil society or social movements.¹¹ This ties with Kaldor's argument of

how the aim of civil society evolved "from civil rights to political rights, workers' movement, economic and social emancipation" until present day.¹² One of the more interesting shift in civil society is the global meaning it acquired as like-minded groups across different countries mobilized to pressure their governments or utilizing the existing human rights charter to pressure government institutions to fight for their rights.¹³ Kaldor also concedes that all civil society movements were not nice or good movements in reference to rise in extremist movements in the last few decades. This ties into how some social movements were tamed to prevent them from becoming violent.

One of the most important roles of civil society is its ability to create political space to directly address the government, appeal to the international community, and make concessions to address the demands of activists and intellectuals.¹⁴ This is effectively various instruments of democracy itself at work. No better example is there of this than when labor movements and suffrage movements were absorbed into liberal parties to become part of the political dialogue.¹⁵ Likewise, formation of international organizations such as the Red Cross, Transparency International, or the International Criminal Court has started to pull a lot of weight and act with a lot of authority in international affairs, almost making them a separate entity from civil society.

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One interesting case that portrays the civil society phenomenon is a case from Taiwan between from 1980s to 1990s concerning ethical practices and consumer rights helped by democratization in the 1990s.¹⁶ Wahn argues that various consumer organizations involved in this consumer protection-focused civil society was able to contest policies and cooperate with other movements by relating their focus to other groups and forming alliances to take stronger action to address the original goal of consumer relations and their social consequences that tied into other social movements such as women's rights, students' rights, and even environmental protection movements.¹⁷

This ethical consumer movement in Taiwan was led by Homemaker Co-operatives with a group of other fair-trade shops like the Consumer Foundation and their main goal was to promote alternative consumption practices, that they later tied into encourage support for other socioeconomic issues using their influence and tapping into other social reform movements.¹⁸ Wahn goes on to assert that this united movement was possible because democratization enabled activists to organize consumer and utilize the political arena to advocate for policy change.¹⁹ During one incident, the Consumer Foundation was able to force the state to take action by causing the sales of prawns sold at markets to drop because they contained high levels

of fluorescence and eventually made the media question the state's missteps in not addressing the issue beforehand.²⁰ Given the time period and the differences in political ideology and activism climate, such a move by a civil society movement is no small feat and shows, as this essay has covered before, how organized social movements can force

"This case shows how the civil society movement was successful not just because of democratization, but because the movement itself strengthened the democratic institutions in Taiwan by engaging in the space between the state and the people."

change. The Consumer Foundation, after joining other civil society organizations, had an even bigger sway in mass mobilization and political elections with lobbying initiatives and endorsement of candidates who ran on various social reform agendas: resulting in the ratification of the Consumer Protection Law in 1994.²¹

This case shows how the civil society movement was successful not just because of democratization, but because the movement itself strengthened the democratic institutions in Taiwan by engaging in the space between the state and the people. By making the state accountable to various causes and demands of the populace, civil societies help strengthen the foundations of

democracy by mobilizing other social movements and in the broader context, inculcates these demands into existing political ideologies and non-governmental organizations.

1. Guenther Roth, "Max Weber's Comparative Approach and Historical Typology," in Ivan Vallier's *Comparative Methods in Sociology*, Berkeley, University of Calif., 197, 84.

2. Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," 172.

3. Charles Tilly, 176.

4. M. Kaldor, "The Idea of Global Civil Society," *International Affairs* 79, 3. (2003), 586.

5. M. Kaldor, 589.

6. Ho-fung Hung, Iam-Chong Ip, "Hong Kong's Democratic Movement and Making of China's Offshore Civil Society," *Asian Survey*, May/June 2012, 505-507.

7. M. Kaldor, 584.

8. M. Kaldor, 585.

9. M. Kaldor, 585.

10. Ho-fung Hung, Iam-Chong Ip, "Hong Kong's Democratic Movement and Making of China's Offshore Civil Society," *Asian Survey*, May/June 2012, 505.

11. Tilly, 183.

12. M. Kaldor, 585.

13. M. Kaldor, 590.

14. M. Kaldor, 588.

15. M. Kaldor, 588-589.

16. Wahn, I-Liang. "The Transformation of Consumer Movements through Democratization and the Development of Civil Society in Taiwan." *International Journal of Consumer Studies* 39, no. 5 (September 2015): 506-14. doi:10.1111/ijcs.12226, 506.

17. Wahn, 506-507.

18. Wahn, 506.

19. Wahn, 507.

20. Wahn, 507.

21. Wahn, 508.

Latest Update



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Deaths

Industrial/islands
used for other
purposes

- From the total samples tested today, 1,481 samples are from the Greater Male' Area.
- Greater Male' area sample positivity is at 13%.
- Total cases include 13 deceased positives whose cause of death is not directly due to COVID-19.

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from @hpa mv
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**MAINTAIN NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH BONDS OF
FRIENDSHIP AND FAMILY TIES EVEN IN THE FACE OF
DISAGREEMENT AND DIFFERENCE OF OPINION!**

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30 جَعِ سَرَفُور 2022

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Please tell us how we can do better

National Counter
Terrorism Centre



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