

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 66: June-July 2023

Celebrating 58 Years of Independence: Safeguarding Sovereignty and Building a Resilient Nation



Independence Day is a moment to cherish a nation's achievements, renew its commitment to safeguarding its dignity and honour, and reinforce its dedication to building a peaceful and prosperous nation. Throughout its history, the Maldives has been steadfast in defending its independence, protecting its cultural heritage, and asserting its rights in the global community. As we celebrate 58 years of sovereignty, we should take pride in our unwavering commitment to preserving its standing on the international stage. This dedication to maintaining sovereignty is at the core of the Maldivian identity, and it serves as a driving force behind the nation's progress.

Our strong ties with the international community have been one of the most significant binding forces in defending and preserving the nation's independence. Engaging in diplomatic relations and international partnerships has not only strengthened the country's position, but also accelerated its economic

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development. Through collaborative efforts and mutual respect, the Maldives has been able to harness global support to bolster various sectors of its economy, from tourism and trade to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Amidst the celebrations, it is essential to remember that the most significant satisfaction an individual can derive from independence is the protection of their civil liberties. It is upon every citizen to fully participate in shaping their nation's destiny, by protecting civil liberties, and foster an inclusive and democratic society where every citizen's voice is valued.

Civil rights are also vital in advancing developmental efforts. With a vision for a prosperous future, Maldivians have made significant strides in various fields, most notably in education. Recognizing education as a fundamental right, Maldivian families have been keen on providing their children with access to quality education. This commitment to learning has empowered the younger generation to become agents of positive change and contribute to the nation's growth.

Thus, it is the duty of every citizen to safeguard the sovereignty of the Maldives and contribute to building a peaceful and peace-loving resilient nation. The spirit of unity and solidarity amongst the people serves as a bedrock for our nation's stability and progress. By upholding the values of harmony, friendship, and understanding, the Maldivian community can create a stronger and more prosperous future for generations to come.

In this issue:

- Empowering Children: Building a Sustainable Future.....1
- NCTC Conducts “Workshop to Review the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism 2020-2024”3
- NCTC Holds Follow-On Discussions with Stakeholders to Finalize Revisions to the National Action Plan on P/CVE...4
- Deputy Commanding General for the United States Army Pacific Calls on DG of NCTC.....4
- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaares” in Lh. Atoll in Collaboration with NCTC.....5
- NCTC Conducts a Session on the Role of Youth for a Peaceful and Resilient Society for the Participants of Youth Leaders Forum in M.Kolhufushi.....6

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“Only a genuine partnership between the Government and its people can bring about positive change to create a just society.”
Pratibha Patil

Members of the Counter Radicalization Committee Meet to Discuss Ongoing P/CVE Efforts

7 June 2023

National Counter Terrorism Centre hosted a meeting of the Counter Radicalization Committee to discuss ongoing P/CVE efforts in the Maldives. The session was chaired by the Director General of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor. During the meeting, members gave an update of multiagency P/CVE efforts and deliberated upon enhancing ongoing work in the implementation of the National Action Plan on P/CVE.



Collaborations to Strengthen the National Efforts to Repatriate, Rehabilitate, and Reintegrate Returning Families from Conflict Zones

The government has long held a policy of repatriated families from conflict zones. As such, the National Reintegration Centre has exceptional work to design and develop rehabilitation and reintegration programs for returning families.

In an effort to further strengthen the work done in this area, an NCTC official participated in the Co-Creation Workshop on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Families Returning from Conflict Zones organized and conducted by Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with Transparency Maldives.

The 1-day workshop was held on 8th of June 2023. Various stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of returnees attended the workshop.

During the workshop, officials discussed on ways to strengthen the rehabilitation process and identify challenges and deliberated upon ways to overcome them for a more effective program.



NCTC also hosted a follow up meeting on the 18th of June with the National Reintegration Centre to discuss areas of collaboration and cooperation. Leadership of both institutions attended the meeting.

During the meeting, officials discussed the latest experience and challenges faced during the rehabilitation and reintegration process. Both parties also welcomed the opportunity to work together in desensitizing the local community for a more effective rehabilitation process.

The meeting concluded with both parties agreeing to continue to work together in this important endeavor.

Engagements with International Partners

Delegation from Security and Justice Project Team of UK's Conflict, Security, and Stability Fund Meets with NCTC

6 June 2023

A delegation from Security and Justice Project Team of UK's Conflict, Security, and Stability Fund met with NCTC officials. During the meeting, NCTC briefed the UK delegation on the work done by NCTC to prevent and counter violent extremism in the Maldives. Officials also discussed possible areas of collaboration and cooperation for future engagements between the two organizations.



Senior NCTC Official Attends Fourth Senior Officials Meeting between the European Union and the Maldives

13 June 2023

Head of Information and Analysis of NCTC Colonel Hussain Ibrahim attended the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting between the European Union and the Maldives in Brussels. The EU-Maldives dialogue is an annual session held to discuss matters of mutual concern between the Maldives and the E.U., and to strengthen diplomatic relations. In

addition to strengthening good governance and economic development, the EU and the Maldives explored avenues to further enhance security cooperation, especially in areas of counterterrorism and preventing violent extremism, as well as in maritime security domain.

An infographic with a dark blue background at the top showing financial data. Below is a purple rounded rectangle with white text. The main text is in white on a light background. There are four numbered points in a 2x2 grid. At the bottom, there is a red and white text block and a photo credit. The background of the infographic features a compass rose and the text 'TERRORISM CENTER'.

Over time, terrorist groups have come up with several **sources to finance** their criminal activities, including:

- 01** Hostage-taking in return for ransom
- 02** Human trafficking, smuggling and extortion
- 03** Abuse of non-profit organizations
- 04** Illicit trade in oil, coal and diamonds

Terrorist financing threatens security and development
photo: @imctc_en

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Engagements with International Partners

Director of NCTC Attends Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter Terrorism Agencies of Member States

19-20 June 2023



Director of NCTC Colonel Amanulla Rasheed attended the third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter Terrorism Agencies of Member States hosted by UNOCT in New York.

The discussions and deliberations focused on five central thematic areas: effective law enforcement mechanisms, including capacity building for law

enforcement officials through technical assistance and institutional cooperation; the centrality of Human Rights in the fight against terror; advancing gender equality and ensuring women’s meaningful participation; placing victims at the center of global counter-terrorism efforts and enhance solidarity with and support to victims of terrorism; and the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and associated family members.

All member states called for multilateral solutions and enhanced international cooperation, in addition to getting ahead of the evolving terrorism threats based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, as well as the terrorist use of new and emerging technologies.

NCTC Official Participates in the Interagency Dialogue to Mentor Law Enforcement Agencies on Best International Practices in Gathering and Processing Information Conducive to the Detection of Terrorist Threats at Sea

22 July 2023

An official of NCTC participated in the Interagency Dialogue to mentor law enforcement agencies on best international practices in gathering and processing information conducive to the detection of terrorist threats at sea. The dialogue was hosted by Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of UNODC, organized under the project “Support to addressing the risk of terrorism and to increasing security in the Maldives,” carried out with funding by the European Union. The dialogue brought

together senior officials from stakeholder agencies to deliberate upon ways to strengthen the security apparatus in the Maldives in accordance with international best practices.

Engagements with International Partners

NCTC Officials Attend the Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group between the Maldives and India

24 July 2023



The Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation between Maldives and India was held in Male'. The Maldivian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary, H.E Ahmed Latheef, and the Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West) H.E Sanjay Verma, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.



cooperation as an important aspect of maintaining security in the Indian Ocean Region.

Both parties also pledged to further strengthen cooperation that will include additional assistance and capacity building for the security and law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Maldives as well as collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the areas of CT and P/CVE including strategic communication, and de-radicalisation.



During the meeting, Maldives and India strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism. Emphasizing the need for strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner, both countries reaffirmed counter-terrorism



The Indian delegation also visited the NCTC during their trip and met with the DG of NCTC and senior NCTC officials. NCTC officials briefed the delegation on the work done by NCTC and discussed further areas of collaboration in P/CVE.

NCTC Hosts an Introductory Meeting with Bridging the Communities Maldives NGO

8 June 2023



NCTC hosted an introductory meeting with Bridging the Communities Maldives. The meeting is part of the government's approach to strengthening cooperation between security agencies and civil society organizations, underscoring the importance of collaboration in safeguarding national security.

During the meeting, participants discussed on a range of topics, including the role of community-based initiatives in countering radicalization.

CSOs bring to the table its unique expertise in community engagement, youth empowerment, and social outreach. With a focus on fostering understanding and harmony among diverse groups, civil society actors align closely with NCTC's vision of promoting a united front against terrorism and violent extremism. By tapping into the insights and grassroots connections of such organizations, the government can gain a more nuanced understanding of the factors that contribute to radicalization and extremism, ultimately enabling more targeted prevention efforts.



Sessions Conducted by NCTC



NCTC conducted a 1-day program titled “Role of Women in Building a Peaceful and Resilient Society” for members of the Women Development Committee of Male’ City on 18 June 2023.



A session on “Border Security and Terrorism” was conducted for newly recruited immigration officers on 9 July 2023. The session covered information about terrorism, violent extremism, and border security management in the context of CT and P/CVE.



NCTC conducted a session for participants of Aviation Security Basic Course on 16 July 2023, covering terrorism, violent extremism, and aviation security.



A session was held for participants of the Special Forces Qualification Course conducted by MNDF on 26 July 2023. The session covered topics in the terrorism module of the training.

Capacity Building Opportunities



NCTC officials attended the high-level session on “Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons” organized jointly by Maldives Correctional Service and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP of U.S. State Department). The 4-day program was held from 19 to 22 June 2023.



NCTC and UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch conducted a national workshop on “Enhancing partnership and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations and local communities in P/CVE and crime and strengthening community resilience through a whole-of-society approach.” The 3-day event was held from 4-6 July 2023 and was held with generous assistance from the government of Japan.



DG and officials of NCTC participated in a conference titled “Bangladesh-Maldives Labour Migration” conducted by Public Interest Law Centre in association with the Refugees and Migratory Movements Research Unit (Bangladesh) and the Asia Foundation. The conference was held from 16 to 18 July 2023.

Officials of NCTC attended a session held under “Maldives Strengthening Governance Project.” The session was organized by the Communication Office of President’s Office and held on 10, 11, and 13 of July 2023.

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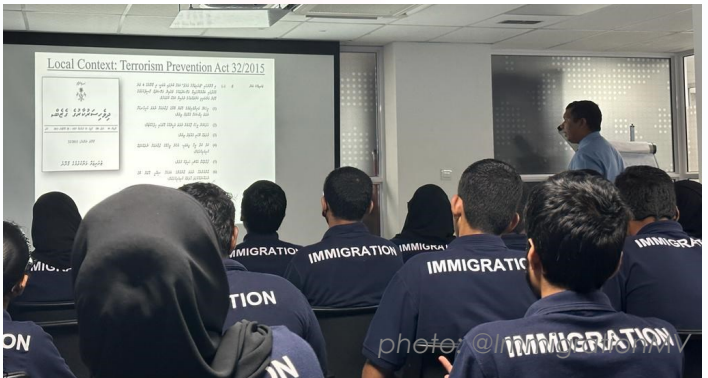
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