

National Counter Terrorism Centre



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THE MALDIVES: A PATRIOTIC, PEACEFUL, RESILIENT AND SOVEREIGN NATION



His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, was inaugurated as the President of the Republic of Maldives on November 17, 2023, marking a historic moment in the nation's journey in enhancing our sovereignty. During his inaugural address, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu emphasized the pivotal role of both material and human development in shaping a nation's development, security, power, and prestige. He underscored the significance of developing not only physical infrastructure like buildings and roads but also cultivating a morally sound society with disciplined individuals.

The President outlined that his government's policies will be founded upon these two fundamental principles, aiming for a balance between knowledge and skills, morals and religion, behavior, and craftsmanship. He highlighted the importance of instilling these values and skills in the youth to propel the Maldivian society towards greater prosperity and progress.

Furthermore, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu pledged to safeguard the independence of the three powers of the State, particularly ensuring non-interference of the Government in the judiciary and the criminal justice system.

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Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable development in the Maldives, he advocated for a national development approach that upholds principles of justice, inclusivity, and sustainability, guiding all governmental policies and actions.

The President emphasized the crucial role of intellectuals in fostering a peaceful and resilient society, affirming the government's commitment to valuing knowledge and showing respect for scholars. He expressed a desire to see future generations uphold Islamic values, urging children to embody diligence, responsibility, and loyalty to their country and religion.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu stressed the importance of providing alternative opportunities for the country's youth and empowering Maldivian women, acknowledging them as the driving force behind the nation's resilience. He promised to protect women's rights, offer economic opportunities, political empowerment, and access to technological innovations to showcase the talents and entrepreneurship of the youth.

Additionally, he acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the elderly citizens to the nation's growth and resilience, emphasizing the need to share their stories and sacrifices with the younger generation.

Ensuring national security and sovereignty, the President pledged to ensure the sovereignty of the Maldives while respecting the security boundaries of other nations.

Addressing the vital factors against a cohesive society such as injustice and corruption, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu assured that the government would prioritize justice, transparency, and the defence of Islam and the nation. He affirmed the government's commitment to mercy, compassion, and attentiveness to the people's welfare, promoting cohesiveness, love, mutual respect, and happiness within the Maldivian society.

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“Every heart that shines with the light of knowledge, every such intelligent mind is a bright star.”

Dr Mohamed Muizzu—His Excellency the President

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The essence of the Maldivian national identity is represented through several significant national symbols, with the flag holding the most prominent position as a symbol of the nation's autonomy and sovereignty. H.E.P Dr. Mohamed Muizzu reiterated the significance of the esteemed Maldivian flag, highlighting its continual presence regardless of day or night, rain or shine. It serves as a testament to the bravery and resolve shown by us to attain and preserve our freedom.

Adhering to a specific arrangement of colors and following particular guidelines, the flag embodies the importance of structure within society, emphasizing the necessity of rules, regulations, and order to uphold the nation's independence. It serves as a reminder that the true ownership of our nation, a genuinely Maldivian identity, emerges when the community unites under the authentic values of its people. This unity involves supporting one another in revitalizing positive aspects and reforming those that require improvement.

In conclusion, the President's commitment to fostering an environment where knowledge and skills, ethics and religion, as well as behavior and craftsmanship, encourages a holistic approach to nation-building. Moreover, his unwavering pledge to uphold the independence of state powers and ensure justice, transparency, and the defence of Maldivian values reflects a profound dedication to the nation's well-being and prosperity.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's emphasis on empowering youth, recognizing the contributions of women and elders, and fostering a cohesive society rooted in mutual respect and shared values, highlights a comprehensive strategy toward societal development and progress. This collective endeavor to fortify the nation's identity is epitomized by the symbolism inherent in the Maldivian flag—a steadfast representation of courage, unity, and the Islamic faith driving the

Maldivian people toward a brighter future.

As the nation moves forward under the presidency of Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, embracing these fundamental principles of unity, resilience, and progress, it is poised to carve a path that resonates with the true essence of a united, prosperous, and authentically Maldivian society.



“O’ the proud national flag of Maldives:

I salute you from the bottom my heart.

I understand the meaning behind every little movement you make; your waving and your fluttering.

You represent the blood of the noble martyrs who defended this nation.

The hope and life of all the brave men and women who built our beloved country.

The sacred beauty and faith of Islam, salvation of our beloved people.

O’ beloved and honoured National Flag:

From now on, the sun will never set on you.

Starting today, our proud flag will be the most honorable symbol that will fly in every island of the Maldives.

Dr. Mohamed Muizzu—HEP

Study Tour to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

23-27 October 2023

Officials from the National Counterterrorism Centre, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Islamic University of Maldives, and Maldives Police Service recently embarked on a Study Tour in Saudi Arabia's capital city, Riyadh. The primary objective of this tour was to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experiences in the fields of rehabilitation and reintegration, counter extremism, and counter terrorism. During the tour, participants had the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions with the Saudi counterparts. The focus was on understanding and

learning from Saudi Arabia's successful strategies and initiatives in countering terrorism and promoting rehabilitation and reintegration programs. The Study Tour provided a platform for officials from NCTC and other government agencies to gain valuable insights into Saudi Arabia's comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism. By observing firsthand the country's efforts in preventing radicalization and promoting rehabilitation, participants were able to broaden their understanding of effective counterterrorism and rehabilitation measures.

Capacity Building Program in Indonesia - IIJ

31 October - 3 November 2023

Officials from NCTC and government agencies participated in the Capacity Building Activity on Enhancing Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms of Counter-Terrorism Operations in Southeast Asia countries held in Jakarta, Indonesia organized by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ). The program consisted of working sessions and interactive discussions to identify gaps, vulnerabilities and good practices in

the national promotion and protection of human rights in the context of counter-terrorism operations. The program brought together experts and stakeholders from various fields to delve into the complex issues surrounding human rights and counter-terrorism. Through collaborative efforts, participants sought to shed light on the existing challenges and explore potential solutions.

Let's make care and support systems that respond to the human rights of all, regardless of their gender, age or disability.

THE TIME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOW

@UNHumanRights

Ambassador of Japan Meets Officials of NCTC

4 October 2023

H.E. Midori Takeuchi and Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Inoue Takehito met the senior officials of NCTC. During the meeting, officials deliberated on issues of mutual concern and areas of cooperation. The government of Maldives greatly appreciates the continuous support and assistance provided by the People of Japan.



CT Session for Aviation Security Basic Course

11 October 2023

NCTC officials conducted sessions on various aspects of terrorism to students enrolled in the Aviation Security Basic Course offered by the Aviation Security Command, including building resilience in the aviation industry against terrorist threats. During the sessions, NCTC officials shared valuable insights and expertise on countering terrorism in the aviation sector. They addressed the students on the importance of understanding the evolving nature of terrorist threats and the need for proactive measures to mitigate risks.



Self-Defence Sessions for Maldives Immigration Staff

29 October - 9 November 2023

NCTC in collaboration with MNDF and Maldives Immigration conducted a series of self-defence sessions for the staff of Maldives Immigration. Recognizing the importance of equipping immigration personnel with the necessary skills to protect themselves and others, this initiative aimed to empower the staff members with self-defence techniques and strategies. By providing them with the tools to confidently handle challenging situations, the training sought to enhance the overall safety and security of the immigration.



Upholding Humanitarian Values and the Imperative of Protecting Human Rights

In a world characterized by diversity and complexity, the principles of humanitarian values and the importance of upholding human rights stand as beacons of hope and progress. As we reflect on current global situations, we are reminded of the enduring relevance of these principles, which are crucial in any context, regardless of the specific circumstances.

The challenges faced by many communities around the world are multifaceted, requiring us to take a diplomatic and politically correct approach when discussing them. It is in this spirit that we emphasize the importance of basic human treatment for all, irrespective of the situation. It is a reminder that transcends borders and politics and underscores our shared responsibility to safeguard the dignity and rights of all individuals.

While we cannot ignore the unique dynamics of specific conflicts, the principles of humanitarian values and human rights provide a solid foundation for addressing them. In situations where tensions exist, it is imperative to recognize the inherent worth and rights of every individual. This includes the right to life, liberty, and security, as well as the right to be free from discrimination, torture, and arbitrary detention. These rights are universal and should be upheld unconditionally.

Furthermore, access to essential services, such as healthcare, education, and clean water, must never be compromised. In times of conflict, it is often the most vulnerable who suffer the most. The international community has a moral obligation to ensure that the innocent are protected and have access to these basic services.

It is essential to encourage all parties involved to abide by international humanitarian law, which is

designed to protect civilians during armed conflicts. This law establishes clear guidelines for the treatment of non-combatants and the protection of essential civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools. Upholding these principles is fundamental to minimizing the impact of conflict on innocent lives.

Engaging in diplomatic efforts, promoting dialogue, and seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts is a responsibility that every nation should embrace. In these processes, respect for human rights must be at the forefront. This not only promotes stability and peace but also fosters a sense of justice and fairness that can contribute to long-term solutions.

In conclusion, the principles of humanitarian values and the importance of upholding human rights serve as the cornerstone of a more just and compassionate world. They are universal and apply to all individuals. In any context, it is crucial that we approach these matters with a gentle and diplomatic tone, recognizing the complexities involved. By doing so, we can collectively work towards a world where the basic rights and dignity of all are respected and protected, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful and harmonious global community.

“The Prophet ﷺ quotes Allah as saying, “O My Servants, I have forbidden injustice upon myself and have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not commit injustice.”

– Sahih Muslim: no. 2577

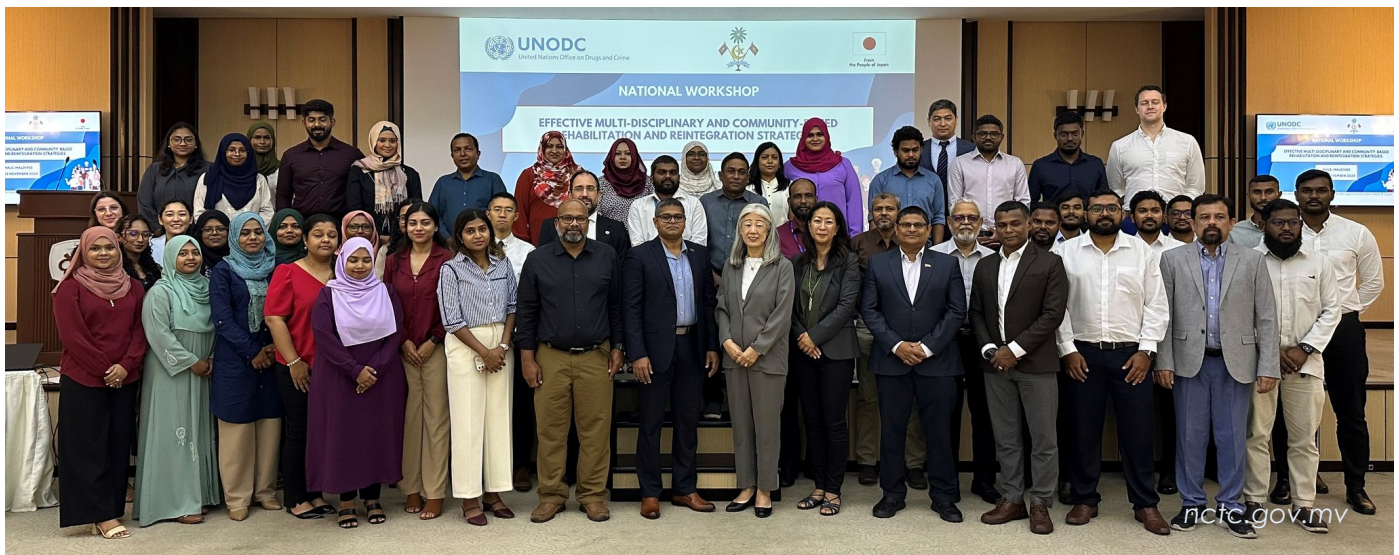
National Workshop on Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies

21-23 November 2023

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes in collaboration with NCTC conducted a three day National Workshop on Effective Multi-disciplinary and Community-based Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies. Officials from government agencies and civil society organizations participated in this workshop to establish more effective and sustainable

Rehabilitation & Reintegration support by engaging communities.

NCTC extends its gratitude to UNODC for their continued support in strengthening the prevention of violent extremism framework in the Maldives and working towards a more peaceful, resilient and cohesive Maldivian society.



National Workshop on Strengthening Cross-regional and International Cooperation

06-07 November 2023

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes in collaboration with NCTC conducted a two day National Workshop on Cross-regional and International Cooperation and Good Practices in the Disruption, Prevention, Investigation, and Prosecution of offences involving the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Participants were equipped with knowledge on tackling IED challenges through multi-agency coordination and cooperation, through a unified approach.



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Building a Peaceful and Resilient Society with the Education Sector

03-05 November 2023



National Counter Terrorism Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and National Reintegration Centre conducted a program on “Building a Peaceful and Resilient Society with the

Education Sector” in Kulhudhufushi City. This program is aimed at promoting community cohesion and inclusion.

The sessions taken during this program prioritize the dissemination of crucial information aimed at enabling individuals to adopt a holistic approach in countering violent extremism and preventing social exclusion.



Session on Counter-Terrorism

04 November 2023

NCTC officials conducted CT session on threats and response to terrorism to Maldives Customs Service and Maldives Immigration staff at Kulhudhufushi City. During the sessions, NCTC officials shared valuable insights and expertise on countering terrorism in the security sector. They addressed the staff on the importance of understanding the evolving nature of terrorist threats and the need for proactive measures to mitigate risks.



A Glimpse at the Role of Educators in a Peaceful and Resilient Islamic Society

The role of educators in fostering a peaceful and cohesive society is pivotal in addressing social and ideological issues. Educators are crucial in promoting positive discourse, increasing knowledge, and cultivating understanding and awareness in communities. By engaging in honest scholarly pursuits, they contribute to the dissemination of accurate information, which can help dispel negative misconceptions and promote the resolution of societal conflicts.

Looking at one of the contentious issues in Islamic theology, Jihad holds a significant place within the framework of Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), constituting a multifaceted concept encompassing a range of meanings beyond the commonly misconstrued notion of armed conflict. The responsibility of Islamic educators in elucidating the nuanced understanding of Jihad is crucial to dispel misinterpretations and clarify its true essence in the context of Islamic jurisprudence. It emphasizes that if it is an Islamic country to declare jihad and declare peace, it is in the hands of the government of that country or hakim.

Contrary to widely held misconceptions, Jihad does not advocate nor condone the destruction of places where innocent civilians live. Rather, Jihad in its essence refers to a struggle or exertion in various forms, encompassing spiritual, moral, intellectual, and, in certain contexts, defensive dimensions. The misunderstanding of Jihad primarily stems from its misappropriation by extremist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, and the misinterpretation of historical contexts, leading to a distorted perception of its true meaning and application.

Educators and scholars as custodians of Islamic

knowledge and jurisprudence, undertake the responsibility to expound on the multifaceted nature of Jihad. They emphasize that Jihad, in its legitimate and moral manifestations, encompasses striving for personal betterment, upholding justice, defending against oppression, and promoting societal welfare. This broader understanding of Jihad encapsulates endeavors such as self-discipline, charity, education, and peaceful advocacy for societal harmony.

Islamic educators often draw on Quranic verses and Hadiths (sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w) to substantiate the authentic meaning of Jihad. These sources emphasize the principles of compassion, mercy, and the sanctity of human life. They underscore that Jihad when correctly understood and practised, upholds the sanctity of life and prohibits any form of aggression against innocent civilians, women, children, and non-combatants. The modern Geneva Convention reaffirms this under international humanitarian law (the law of armed conflict).

By providing a nuanced and contextualized understanding of jihad, educators help combat extremist ideologies that spread violence and misunderstandings of Islamic teachings. Their role in promoting a comprehensive knowledge of Jihad as a multifaceted concept aligns with Islamic principles of peace, justice, and compassion, fostering a more accurate perception of this intricate aspect of Islamic jurisprudence in the broader context of societal well-being.

Furthermore, educators contribute to societal cohesion by elucidating the concepts of Sunnah and Arab culture in the broader context of Islam. They emphasize that while Islam originated in the Arab world, it transcends cultural boundaries and is adaptable to diverse cultural contexts. It is

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crucial to clarify that adherence to Islam does not mandate the adoption of specific cultural practices, such as dress codes like the jubbah and kurta. Instead, Islam advocates modesty and hijab as central principles of attire, emphasizing that cultural variations in clothing do not supersede these fundamental religious guidelines.

In essence, educators play a critical role in fostering understanding, dispelling misconceptions, and promoting harmony in society

by imparting accurate knowledge about Islamic principles and guiding individuals toward a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of religion and culture.

Education systems play crucial role in countering extremism & radical narratives. By providing quality education that promotes critical thinking, tolerance & respect for diversity, societies can equip individuals to challenge extremist ideologies. Good education also fosters sense of belonging & inclusion, reducing appeal of fundamentalism.



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National Counter Terrorism Centre

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