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## “Youth for Nation”

DATE: 28th August 2018



## Ministry of Islamic Affairs conducts a youth forum themed “Youth for Nation”

*“Islam gives utmost importance to youth. The first to embrace Islam was a youth. The young Islamic Nation that was established in Medina was defended by youth. And it is the youth who carries the beacon of hope into the future .”*

Minister of Islamic Affairs  
Hon Dr. Ahmed Ziyad



 **1615**  
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## ISLAMIC MINISTRY CONDUCTS A YOUTH FORUM THEMED “YOUTH FOR NATION”

28 August 2018

As part of the national efforts to prevent the spread of Violent Extremism in the Maldives, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs in Collaboration with NCTC conducted a youth talk forum themed “National Conference on Creating a Peaceful and Tolerant Community”. Over a hundred participants from eleven

and National Security Hon. Adam Shareef. In his inaugural address, he highlighted what nationalism is. He said that Nationalism also means being proud and happy for all good things that happens to the nation and being concerned and

worried about all the bad things. If you do not have those emotions about the nation, you are not nationalistic.

He also stressed that as a nation loving citizen, one should love being a Muslim,

national policy.

He further stressed that it is us Maldivians who invite and let foreigners meddle in our affairs to the extent of Maldives losing its sovereignty, and that history had taught us numerous lessons. He further stressed that the youth of today



*As a nation loving citizen of Maldives, one should love being a Muslim, one should be proud of the Maldivian language, one should respect the customs and traditions of Maldives and try to revive those traditions and safeguard national interests and national policy.*

*Hon. Adam Shareef Umar,  
Minister of Defence & National Security*

organisations and private individuals participated in the forum. The aim of the forum was to instill a sense of Nationalism in the minds of today's youth and to be proud of being a Maldivian.

The one day forum started with a half hour opening ceremony in which the Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Ahmed Ziyad highlighted the importance given in religion to the youth and highlighted the contributions of youth in the creation of the first Islamic Nation. The guest of honour of the forum was the Minister of Defence

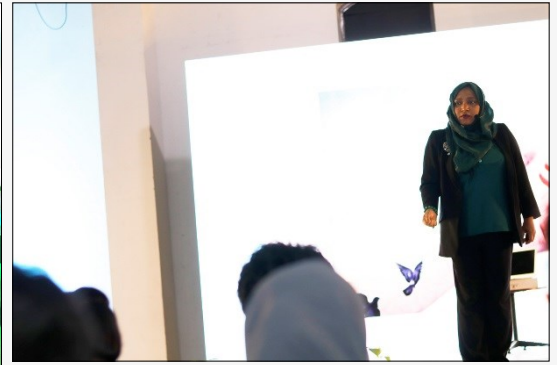
one should be proud of the Maldivian language, one should respect the customs and traditions of Maldives and try to revive those traditions and safeguard national interests and

should not let that happen to this nation as our forefathers made great sacrifices to keep this nation as a sovereign nation

National Subject Matter Experts and







role models took six talk sessions on different relevant topics during the day.

The first Session was on “Starting from Scratch” and this session was presented by Mr. Mohamed Shihab

The Second Session was on “Determination, Facing barriers and continuing with courage” and the session was presented by the renowned psychologist Dr. Aishath Ali Naaz.

The third Session was on “Youth engagement and contributing to the nation” and the session was presented by Dr. Aishath Rafiyya of RAFY NGO.

The fourth Session was on “The role of

Youth in the defence of the nation” and was presented by Sh. Moosa Anwar Hassan.

The fifth session was on “Youth to Leaders” and was presented by Captain (Retd.) Ali Ihusaan.

The sixth and the final session was on “Heroes never Die & the Maldivian Legacy” and this session was presented by Mr. Ahmed Shakir (Kashimaa).

At the end of the Forum, three lucky participants won the lucky draws, where the first prize was a MacBook Air, the second prize was a Coffee Maker and the third prize was a Wireless headphone.





## EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF ASIAN PCVE LEADERS ON NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

27-28 August 2018



Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor and a Delegation of Maldivian Counter Radicalization partners participated in a two day workshop themed “Asian Leadership Exchange on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism National Action Plans”.

This workshop is conducted by Hedayah’s PCVE National Action Plans Task Force with the support of UNDP. During the two-day program the delegates from government, the security sector, and civil society of Asian Region shared their experiences with NAPs, identified the way ahead, highlighted possible cooperation with other countries and explore the challenges and opportunities.

The workshop gave an opportunity for the countries with more experience on NAP development to share their

knowledge with the less experienced nations.

Delegations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Maldives and the ASEAN secretariat participated in the two day workshop. During the workshop, the participants were:

- ◆ Introduced to the global history and architecture surrounding the development of NAPs;
- ◆ Provided a forum to share knowledge of PCVE terminology and conceptualization, with a specific focus on the role of grievances, structural conditions and personal factors, as root causes and drivers of violent extremism.;
- ◆ Grouped into break out sessions to discuss how they can move from an understanding of the root

causes of extremism in their countries, to policies and programs that are targeted, realistic, and achievable.:

- ◆ Given questionnaires to guide them to modify the conceptual framework into their own context, highlighting local insights;
- ◆ Briefed on international good practices of how Governments can aid inter-agency and inter-ministry collaboration on the development and delivery of a NAP with a focus on engagement with civil society;
- ◆ Given guidance on how to develop and deliver realistic and effective NAP’s;
- ◆ Briefed on good practices for National Action Plan development and implementation, with an introduction to accessible phased



programmatic approach;

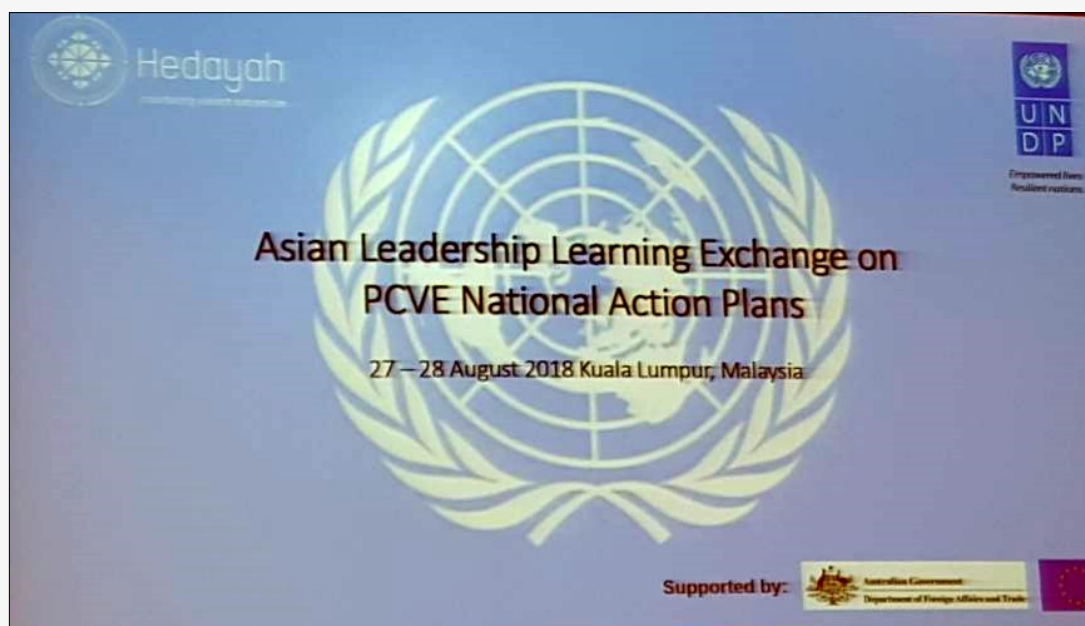
- ◆ Given an insight on approaches to improve donor coordination, and how best to ensure that PCVE projects reflect a solid evidence base, are aligned with the NAP framework, and complement, rather than duplicate, efforts of other agencies;
- ◆ Introduced to key strategic communications' elements of NAP delivery and online presence and provided examples of how social media is used to propagate and counter violent extremism;
- ◆ Briefed on how the UNDP and the Task Force might support country specific requirements and assist in the design and delivery of follow on programs;

The Hedayah's PCVE National Action Plans Task Force has worked with 21 different countries since its inception in 2013 to facilitate the design and delivery of strategies and accompanying National Action Plans to prevent and counter violent extremism. The Task Force also

provides pro bono technical support and training, drawing on emerging international good practices.

In 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which recommended that "each Member State should consider developing a national plan of action to prevent

conductive to the spread of terrorism; (2) preventing and combatting terrorism; (3) building countries' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard; (4) ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law while countering terrorism.



violent extremism which sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers".

During the same year, the Member States of the United Nations agreed on a global-strategy to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts. The strategy has four pillars: (1) tackling the conditions

United Nations and especially the United Nations Development Program is empowering the nations in achieving the objectives of the four pillars, especially concentrating on the first and the fourth pillar of tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism and ensuring respect for human rights.



## NCTC IS CONDUCTING THE AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE



NCTC has started the conduct of the After Action Review of the “National Conference on Promoting Dialogue and Creating a Peaceful and Tolerant Society”. The National Conference was very successful in getting all relevant partner organizations onto the same grid. The Government ministries, educational institutions, public sector organisations, NGOs and the members of the Counter Radicalization Committee met to discuss the way ahead for the formulation of the National Action

discussions were left wanting as only MACL and Island Aviation participated. Many of the NGOs



highlighted the need to bring Ms. Ruby to conduct a talk show for the women empowerment NGOs. They felt that a prolonged interaction with her would benefit the NGOs in planning future intervention programs as well as the Women empowerment programs for the islands. Experts from the Law enforcement and Education Sector felt that the second international expert Professor

Mohamed bin Ali’s ideas would be extremely useful in designing the Religious Rehabilitation Program of the Maldives. During further discussions with Mr. Mohamed Shihab of ‘Villi Joali’ NGO, he highlighted the importance of delving into the incidents that are happening though out the world and to stress that intolerance and religious extremism is on the increase throughout the globe. He also stressed the importance of

giving examples of Religious Extremism taking part in non muslim nations as well as far right movements that are occurring though out the world. He also reiterated the importance of disassociating Islam from Terrorism. In the discussions with president of the Maldivian Language Academy, he stressed the importance of incorporating Nationalistic themes into our intervention programs.



Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

The participation of the Public Limited Companies in the

## ARTICLE REVIEW OF “CHILDREN AT WAR: FOREIGN CHILD RECRUITS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE”



The quantitative analysis of Child Foreign Fighters of Islamic State in 2013 and 2014 by Dakota Foster and Daniel Milton included a dataset of 4100 registered fighters out of which 290 were children under the age of 18. It is alarming as the % of Children in active fighting is higher than 7%

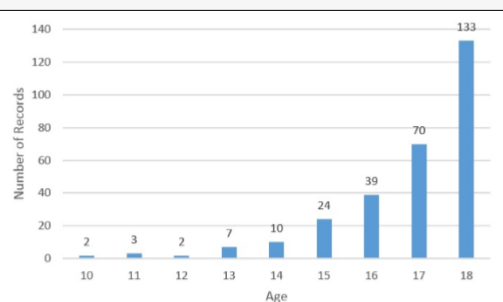


Figure 1: Age Breakdown of Children in Islamic State Personnel Records

There is an expected increase in the no of Child Foreign Fighters as the age increases.

Though the average is 7% Child Fighters, there are certain nations whose Child Fighter percentages are much higher. Countries like Bahrain, the host Country Syria, Australia, Pakistan and Belgium.

However it was surprising to find that the countries which contributed the majority of adult Foreign Terrorist Fighters contributed comparatively low numbers of Child Fighters. Tunisia, Russia, Morocco and Azerbaijan contributed a larger overall adult foreign fighter

percentage, however their Child fighter percentages were lower than 2% of the overall fighters. This may be due to the difficulty of travelling and entering from the countries which are further away from Syria as the percentages of Child Fighters were relatively higher for the host Country Syria (27%), Bahrain (29%), Libya (17%), Turkey (15%) and Saudi Arabia (6%). The fact that it was easier to travel to the war zone may have played a major Role in the marked increase in both the number and relative percentages of Child Fighters from those nations.

controlling more ground and entry into Syria became easier, the fighters started taking their families with them. More Child fighters started entering on their own as well.

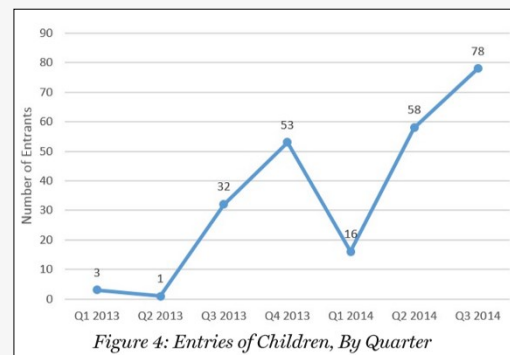


Figure 4: Entries of Children, By Quarter

Another Surprising finding was that a large percentage of the Child Fighters has previous fighting experience. Especially those coming from the conflict zones came with a skillset of war fighting.

The research however disproved the hypothesis that large groups of Child Fighters are entering Syria as the data showed that the majority of Child fighters entered the country as an only child in the group.

It is unfortunate that children are enlisted to fight. This robs them of a bright future. After facing the brutality of war, often without their consent (or at least at an age where they cannot make such weighty decisions), they would return home scarred for life. The nightmare is likely far from over. The governments of the countries from which the fighters went have the arduous task of Deradicalizing, Rehabilitating, and Reintegrating them into the Society. This is a challenging task, however it will be worth the investment.

(1) Country of Residence	(2) Number of Children	(3) Percentage of Total Children	(4) Number of Total Fighters	(5) Percentage of Total	(6) Children as Percentage of Country's Total Continent
Albania	1	0%	18	0%	6%
Australia	3	1%	13	0%	23%
Azerbaijan	2	1%	122	3%	2%
Bahrain	8	3%	28	1%	29%
Belgium	5	2%	25	1%	20%
China	12	4%	167	4%	7%
Denmark	2	1%	14	0%	14%
Egypt	12	4%	194	5%	6%
France	8	3%	128	3%	6%
Germany	9	3%	80	2%	11%
Indonesia	8	3%	79	2%	10%
Jordan	1	0%	57	1%	2%
Kazakhstan	1	0%	35	1%	3%
Kosovo	5	2%	52	1%	10%
Kuwait	2	1%	25	1%	8%
Kyrgyzstan	7	3%	65	2%	11%
Lebanon	3	1%	33	1%	12%
Libya	18	6%	106	3%	17%
Morocco	5	2%	260	7%	2%
Netherlands	2	1%	13	0%	15%
Pakistan	3	1%	15	0%	20%
Palestine	1	0%	19	0%	5%
Qatar	1	0%	10	0%	10%
Russia	7	2%	210	5%	3%
Saudi Arabia	45	16%	797	20%	6%
Sweden	1	0%	14	0%	7%
Syria	34	12%	126	3%	27%
Tajikistan	4	1%	66	2%	6%
Tunisia	19	6%	640	16%	3%
Turkey	36	13%	244	6%	15%

Another finding of the study was the relative increase in the no of child fighters from the first quarter of 2013. This result was not surprising as the ISIS fighters started gaining and