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“Islam remains the basis of all the laws in Maldives which proves the significance of Islam and Sharia in Maldives.”

*Vice President of Maldives,
His Excellency Abdulla Jihad*

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GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES ENHANCES EFFORTS IN COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM



NCTC AND UNODC CONDUCTS THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

3-5 July 2018



“Member States of the United Nations, taking into consideration the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must work towards the maintenance of international peace and security, regardless of the size of the country.”

H.E. Ahmed Sareer, Foreign Secretary of Maldives

NCTC, in collaboration with UNODC conducted a Workshop titled “National Legislative Workshop on Implementation of Transport-related Maritime Counter Terrorism International Legal Instruments” from the 3rd to 5th of July 2018 in Hotel Jen. Thirty participants from law enforcement agencies and maritime agencies of the government participated in the workshop.

His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives, inaugurated the Workshop. Speaking at the inauguration, Foreign Secretary expressed his gratitude to the United Nations (UN) for its contributions in enhancing the capacity of Maldives in addressing the issues of terrorism and violent extremism. Ms. Shoko Nada, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Masamichi Abe, Charge De Affairs of Embassy of Japan in the Maldives and the Program Officer of UNODC also delivered their remarks addressing to the participants of the workshop.

Subject Matter Experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Counter Terrorism Branch, International Maritime organization (IMO) and participants from Maldives Coast Guard, Maldives Police Service, Maldives Transport Authority, Prosecutor General’s Office, Attorney General’s Office and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Maldives Monetary Authority delivered papers and on a wide range of topics related to International Legal Frameworks, ISPS Codes, Gaps in the Legal and Criminal Justice System of the

Maldives, the Maldivian Coast Guards Experience in the field, Movement of Finances related to Maritime Terrorism and so on. The participants discussed challenges and gaps and shared experiences and best practices amongst

“We, at the United Nations, are here to assist you in this important goal. Let’s work together to achieve more safety and security in Maldivian waters.”

MS. Shoko Noda – UN Resident Coordinator



MALDIVES HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “FATWA: A WAY OF PROMOTING PEACE”

08 July 2018, Sunday

The Fatwa Majlis of the Maldives held an International Conference of Muftis on 8 July 2018. The topic of the high level conference is ‘Fatwa: A Way of Promoting Peace’. The Grand Muftis from the Egypt, Dr. Shaugee Allaam, Mufti Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Al Khalayleh of Jordan, and Chairman of Islamic Fiqh Academy at Sudan Abdul-Rahim Ali and Mufti Sh. Muhammad Rasheed Ibrahim of Maldives presented papers in the Conference. The conference was also attended by representatives of Fatwa Majlis of Malaysia and Morocco. The objectives of the Conference were:

- 1. To promote peace and improve relationship among Islamic nations through Fatwa***
- 2. To determine approaches to improve role of Fatwa in addressing issues in Islamic nations***
- 3. To determine and improve role of Fatwa in promoting peace in societies***
- 4. To promote Maldives initiation in promoting peace working together with other nations .***
- 5. To build relationship between Fatwa Councils of major Islamic Countries.***

Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Ahmed Ziyad Bagir also addressed the Conference. In his Address he stated that Islamic sermons must not cause civil strife. He also said that that the establishment of a national religious advisory body (Fatwa Majlis) by the current administration



shows the state's devotion to Islam and Religious Unity.

Islamic minister also highlighted the importance of ensuring sermons to discouraged civil strife, noting that sermons must provide protection and preach for peace in the community.

Dr Ziyad congratulated the Fatwa majlis for the progress it made in such a short period. The Fatwa Majlis was established after dissolving the Islamic jurisprudence academy after an amendment was ratified to the Law on the Protection of the Religious Unity in 2016.

The members of the Fatwa Majlis were hand-picked by President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom with the advice of the Islamic minister, Chief Justice, Maldives National University and Islamic University of Maldives.

This conference would greatly benefit Maldives in solving the contentious religious issues.

H-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF MUFTIS OF FATWA MAJLIS OF ISLAMIC NATIONS

Sideline Meetings:

THE LEADERS OF THE FAWTA MAJLISES MEET THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

08 July 2018, Sunday

Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Fatwa Majlis of Maldives held official talks with the foreign dignitaries, on the sidelines of International Fatwa Conference

hosted by Maldives Ministry of Islamic Affairs. During the official talks, study visits and further avenues of collaborations were discussed. They also discussed the roles that

Fatwa Majlises of the Islamic nations could play in streamlining the thought process of Islamic Ummah and increasing tolerance and Peace in Muslim Ummah.



GRAND MUFTI OF EGYPT VISITS MADHRASATUL ARABIYYATUL ISLAMIYYAA

08 July 2018, Sunday

Grand Mufti of Egypt Uz. Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam visited Madhrasathul Arabiyyathul Islamiyya along with the Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Ziyad, and the senior officials of the Ministry of Education. A large percentage of the alumni of

Madhrasatul Arabiyyathul Islamiyyaa are graduates of the Al Azhar University of Egypt and are presently serving in the Maldives in different fields. Some of the renowned Scholars and Government officials are Alumni of this

institution. There is a long standing history of collaboration between Al Azhar University and Madhrasatul Arabiyyatul Islamiyyaa.

Grand Mufti and Minister were avidly welcomed by students and staff alike.



IUM CONDUCTS “INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC AWAKENING”

14-15 July 2018

“International Conference on Islamic Awakening”, organised by Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) in collaboration with the International Institute for Islamic Thoughts was held at Islamic University of the Maldives from 14th to 15th of July 2018.

The conference was held under the theme, "The role of Islamic thought, culture and civilisation in building peace, harmony and tolerance in South Asia" and was attended by renowned religious scholars from over 12 countries.

The Vice President of the Maldives His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Jihad inaugurated the seminar themed “The role of Islamic thought, culture and civilization in building peace, harmony and tolerance in South Asia”. In his inauguration speech, he stressed the importance of the topic to be deliberated for the sake of uniting the Muslim communities throughout the world. He noted that the most critical challenge facing Muslims was the lack of tolerance



towards each other which in turn creates dispute and disharmony all around the world.

The Vice President reminded that as per the constitution, Islam remains the basis of all the laws in Maldives which proves the significance of Islam and Sharia in Maldives.

During the opening remarks, Dr. Mohammed Shaheem Ali Saeed, the Chancellor of the Islamic University of the Maldives highlighted the important role played by Muslims in establishing peace and harmony in the South Asia region and added that tolerance must be practiced better than now in order to enhance the global Muslim community

During the two day conference, renowned national and international Scholars delivered 43 research papers. Thirty seven papers were delivered by

international participants while 6 papers were presented by Maldivians, in both Arab and English language.



The aim of the series of conferences is to enhance the Islamic community, promote research-based education and to discuss on social and economic issues faced by Muslims.



PRE PLANNING MEETING WITH AVSECOM TO IDENTIFY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

15 July 2018, Sunday

Director General Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor visited Aviation Security Command (AVSECOM) to identify their training requirements related to Countering Terrorism. In the meeting he also identified the level to which these trainings are to be conducted. The main areas of trainings are identified as:

1. *Awareness on Counter Terrorism.*
2. *Evolving threats to International Civil Aviation.*
3. *Use of Social Media.*
4. *Tactical level operations*



In addition, different case studies would also be discussed and explained to give the officers of AVSECOM a more in-depth tactical level understanding of the issues involved, SFC Saeed from NCTC would be seconded to AVSECOM to identify

and analyze additional training requirements. A final coordination meeting is to be held on 22nd of July at AVSECOM Headquarters to agree on the syllabus, timeline and administrative arrangements of the trainings.

NCTC AND PARTNER AGENCIES GOES ON A STUDY TOUR TO JAPAN

7-14 July 2018



NCTC along with three partner agencies, from the Counter Radicalization Committee, namely, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Gender and Family and the Ministry of Youth and Sports participated in a study tour of Japan to learn the techniques and tactics used by Japan in maintaining peace and security.

During the Study Tour the participants visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and were briefed on techniques and tactics that are used by Japan on maintaining peace and harmony in the

nation. And were also briefed on the security measures being implemented in preparation for Tokyo 2020 Olympics by the Japanese National Police Agency officials.

They also visited a public elementary school to learn the techniques used by schools in instilling national values. The participants were also given a tour of NEC, the company developing facial recognition system for CCTV systems on the streets and given a briefing on the security measures that will be used in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

During the visit to Kyoko police, the role and workings of the Emergency Response Centre and traffic monitoring and response mechanisms were briefed in addition to the response to crimes and incidents.

The Maldivian team was also given a tour of a Juvenile correctional Institution where the children were given courses on occupational training, social adjustment programs and educational courses. In addition the team was briefed on the reintegration program of the facility.

The experiences gained through this study tour organized by the UNDP and funded by the Government of Japan would benefit the various institutions of Maldives in formulation of the National Action Plan. It will also benefit the efforts in spreading peace and tolerance in Maldives.

PARTNER AGENCIES ATTENDS THE CROSS REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

10-12 July 2018



NCTC in collaboration with UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) invited partner agencies to participate in the “Cross Regional Workshop for South and South East Asia on Strengthening National and Regional Legal Frameworks and Networks for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism”. The cross-regional workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 10 to 12 July 2018, and is funded by the Government of Japan.

Participants from Maldives Police Service, Prosecutor General’s Office,

Attorney General’s Office and Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth attended the workshop.



The workshop has brought together participants from the criminal justice sector, education sector and civil

society actors from South and Southeast Asian countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines and Sri Lanka), and have provided them with a forum for sharing experiences and good practices on preventing and countering violent extremism leading to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

Participants discussed on various topics, such as the roles of criminal justice officials, educational experts and civil society actors in Prevention

and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) leading to Terrorism; Disengagement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of terrorist and violent extremist offenders; countering the use of social networking services for terrorist purposes; effective counter-narrative strategies; and engaging in effective partnership with civil society, educational and community actors. Discussions were focused around the development of national framework and networks on P/CVE at national and regional level.



JOINT WORKING GROUP OF NCTC, MNU AND IUM MEETS TO DISCUSS CVE EFFORTS

02 July 2018, Monday

A working group comprising of members from Maldives National University (MNU), Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) and National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) met to discuss the programs that can be conducted by the Universities in Collaboration with NCTC to curb the growth of violence and intolerance in the society.

Both Universities have drawn up programs to engage the youth during the course of the year to achieve the

objectives of promoting Tolerance and Peace. The Universities will evaluate the impact and the success of

the program during the course of the year and make the necessary adjustments to maximize the effort.



UNODC TEAM MEETS THE LOCAL NGOS, RAFY AND WEAM

04 July 2018, Wednesday



The UNODC team met the local NGOs RAFY and WEAM on the sidelines of “National Legislative Workshop on Implementation of Transport-related Maritime Counter Terrorism International Legal Instruments” on the 4th of July 2018. The NGOs are very active in women empowerment and youth leadership development and NCTC has signed MOUs with both the NGOs to partner with them in our effort to counter Radicalism, Violent Extremism and

Terrorism. NCTC has also partnered with them in their outreach programs to instill patriotism and Nationalism in the youth community and empowering women. During the discussions with

UNODC team, the Program Officer of implementation support section 1 of Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, Ms. Arianna Lepore highlighted the importance of NGOs in the outreach programs and expressed her interest in working with the NGOs in the future. She also invited the leaders of both the NGOs to attend the “Cross Regional Workshop for South and South East Asia on Strengthening National and Regional Legal Frameworks and Networks for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism” to be held in Malaysia from 10th to 12th of July.

