



# NCTC NEWSLETTER

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## **MALDIVES AS A BEACON OF LIGHT FOR THE ISLAMIC UMMAH ON MODERATION AND PEACE**

Ministry of Islamic Affairs of the Maldives hosts the first High Level Seminar on the “Role of Moderation in Counter Terrorism and Promoting Peace and Security” in Kurumba Maldives in collaboration with Global Forum for Moderation of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, NCTC, MPS and MNDF. The two-day seminar was held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2018 and was attended by 26 eminent Scholars and Statesmen from 13 Islamic Nations and scholars and academicians from Maldives.



*Senior dignitaries of the First High Level Seminar “Role of Moderation in Counter Terrorism and Promoting Peace and Security”*

The main objective of the Seminar was to facilitate dialogue at the international and National level amongst the eminent Scholars and Statesmen to promote multi-dimensional understanding of the threat of radicalism and extremism and to promote the real image of Islam which is based on justice, fairness and compassion.

The seminar emphasized on the role of moderation and moderate approaches in the global security. Furthermore, it emphasized on the threats of terrorism and violent extremism which saps the energies and potential of the Muslim World. During the seminar, it has been highlighted the true face of Islam which is based on justice and compassion in dealing with all human kind, respecting humanity and human dignity. The seminar concluded with the adoption of the following recommendations:



- To proclaim the real image of Islam which is based on Justice, Fairness and Compassion
- To condemn and respond in a more comprehensive manner through adoption of more comprehensive, effective and unified strategy.
- The global effort to be supervised by a committee of judges
- Extremism has no religion and any linkage to any religion will only help the terrorists in achieving their goals



- To pay more attention to youth, and the marginalized poor community and utilize Zakat to rehabilitate
- To fight illiteracy, poverty and ignorance and to spread values that are against extremism and terrorism
- Educational institutions in Islamic countries to include faith-based concepts to fight terrorism and violent extremism in their curriculum/syllabus.
- Expressed regret that there is a growing intolerance against Muslims and Islamophobia violates the Muslim’s fundamental human rights and dignity
- Appealed to the global media to identify and portray the true nature of Islam and to avoid deliberate distortions of the image of Islam
- Emphasized the importance of family and the role of women in guiding young minds away from terrorism

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***“Maldives will remain a moderate, progressive, tolerant and peaceful Muslim country” – National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism***

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## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION/ENGAGEMENTS

### DG MEETS US SENATE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE



Director General Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor met with the director and the senior delegation of United States Senate Appropriation Committee on 05 April 2018. During the meeting, NCTC provided a presentation on the role of National Counter Terrorism Centre and Maldives' approach to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Furthermore, during the meeting Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre and the Director of the Senate Appropriations Committee discussed mutual interests and specific areas for mutual cooperation.

### NCTC AT UN SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL CVE STRATEGY

A delegation from NCTC participated at the Sub-regional workshop on Afghanistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka focusing on national CVE strategies, conducted from 14 to 16 March 2018 in New York. The program was organized by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to promote the adoption and implementation of national strategies to counter violent extremism. The format of the three day program enabled the participants to discuss ways to strengthen national and regional information-exchange networks, and to promote cooperation among counter-terrorism officials from the region, especially those focusing on countering violent extremism. During the program, Maldives presented a brief on Maldives' approaches to counter terrorism and violent extremism in the Maldives.





## WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH: ACTIVITIES BY STAKEHOLDERS

### COUNTER RADICALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD



NCTC conducted the Counter Radicalization Committee meeting to discuss challenges faced by the institutions of the committee members in addressing the issues related to the spread of violent extremism and radicalization in the Maldives. The meeting was attended by members from designated ministries, and was presided over by the committee chairman, Minister of Defence and National Security Honorable. Adam Shareef Umar. The Islamic University of the Maldives presented eight programs that they have planned for the academic year 2018 which is targeted to students, Islam teacher's community, the Islamic scholars and parents to reduce radicalization and address some controversial subjects

### ENHANCING THE ROLE OF IMAMS IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Ministry of Islamic Affairs, conducted seventh refresher training program for Imams and Kathibs of Baa. Atoll islands. A total of 28 Imams from 8 islands attended the program. The program was aimed at training the Imams and Khatibs to promote moderate Islamic views and empower Imams to prevent radicalization activities in the island communities. During the program, Ministry of Islamic Affairs distributed special literature materials addressing the pressing issues including the messages against violent extremism. The training program was conducted by senior officials and scholars from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs.



## WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH: ACTIVITIES BY STAKEHOLDERS

### YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth (RAFY) in collaboration with National Counter Terrorism



Centre, initiated the first Youth Peace Ambassadors program in the Maldives to create a network of young peacemakers throughout the Maldives. The first program was conducted in K. Guraidhoo from 5 April to 06 April 2018. This program was conducted with the support of K.Guraidhoo island council and school management. A total of 70 students participated in the program, aimed at building resilient communities by producing Young Peacemakers and Peace Ambassadors for sustainable development. Furthermore, this program prepared the youth to enhance their understanding the shortcomings and achievements of the UN's MDGs, and the potential and challenges of the new Global Post-2015 framework and the SDGs and is in line with the UN Secretary General's call on 12th April 2018, to invest in youth to counter terrorism.

### RAFY AND MDRI RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NCTC



RAFY awarded a certificate of Appreciation to the National Counter Terrorism Centre in appreciation of the support to implement the youth training program titled “Smart

Island Camp - Pathway to Become a Young Peace Ambassador” held in K. Guraidhoo School between 05-06 April 2018

### DG MET WEAM TO DISCUSS SIGNING OF MOU



Director General met Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Maldives to discuss the signing of an MOU between the NGO and NCTC to facilitate the conducting of programs in empowering Maldivian women. Director General expressed his gratitude to WEAM for their tremendous contributions in empowering women.

## MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

### DG MET CONTROLLER OF MALDIVES IMMIGRATION



Director General met with the Controller of Maldives Immigration Mr. Mohamed Anwar on 10 April 2018. During the meeting discussions were held on the challenges faced by Maldives Immigration. They

further discussed about areas of collaboration between NCTC and Maldives Immigration.

Maldives Immigration is a member of the Counter Terrorism Steering Committee in the National Counter Terrorism Centre.

### DG MET THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRE FOR HOLY QURAN



Director General met with the President of the Centre for Holy Quran Us. Ibrahim Rasheed Moosa and Secretary General of the Centre,

Sheikh. Thoha Naeem, on 10 April 2018. The meeting was a continuation of the series of meetings being conducted amongst the senior officials of academic institutions of the state to enhance the role of academic institutions in prevention and countering violent extremism in the Maldives. Furthermore, the meetings envision to promote peace, tolerance and moderation in Islam and Maldivian way of life through religious education.

### ROUTINE AFFAIRS

- NCTC and Maldives Monetary Authority held a meeting on 11th April 2018 to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- NCTC met with Ministry of Tourism to discuss ways to enhance tourism sector security. The meetings were held on 09 April 2018, at the Ministry of Tourism. Maldives Police Service also participated in the meetings. Director General met the Acting Commissioner of Police to discuss the possibility of signing an MOU with the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies of Maldives Police Service