



Newsletter

NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE

Remembering those we lost in the Garissa University attack in 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Kenya launches observatory on violent extremism

Pg. 3

Garissa University commemorates 9th anniversary of attack

Pg. 4-6

Kenya hosts Global Counter Terrorism Forum

Pg. 6

Kenya, Netherlands sign MoU on combating extremism

Pg. 6

Judges trained on counter-terrorism and terrorism financing

Pg. 11

Kenya Defences Forces in counter-terrorism awareness drive

Pg. 14

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ABOVE: Garissa University commemorated the terrorist attack nine years with a special memorial to honor the 147 people who perished and the survivors of the heinous event.

Kenya launches online observatory to foster dialogue on violent extremism

By NCTC Team

Kenya's war on terrorism and violent extremism received a major boost in April 2024 following the launch of an online platform to create and increase public awareness of violent extremism.

The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) launched Jasiri Observatory, a website designed to support sharing of information and knowledge by members of the public on ways to fight terrorism and other extremist activities in society. The observatory is accessible by the public on www.jasiri.go.ke

See full story on page 3

From the Editorial Desk

Welcome to the 5th Edition of the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) newsletter.

We thank all our stakeholders and partners as we progress our journey of collaboration towards realizing our goal of making our communities and Nation safer and secure from terrorism. The progress achieved so far demonstrates the importance of rallying together as a society to defeat the enemy lurking in our midst.

As highlighted in this edition, the attacks at Riverside (2019) and Garissa (2015) remind us that rejecting divisive ideologies is a collective responsibility in winning this war.

Promoting dialogue is also a critical element and is the reason why NCTC launched the Jasiri Observatory in April, an online-based platform to sensitize, inform and empower individuals and communities to take action against and firmly reject extremism.

Let each one of us be part of this conversation by visiting www.jasiri.go.ke



COMMENTARY

Riverside attack and Garissa University attacks remind us defeating terror is a collective goal

DR. ROSALIND NYAWIRA

On January 15 and on 2nd April this year, Kenyans remembered the tragic attacks that took place at Nairobi's Riverside area five years ago and against Garissa University students nine years ago by Al Shabaab terrorists.

The response by Kenya's security forces was swift and decisive culminating in the elimination of all four perpetrators and hundreds of lives saved. The well-calibrated response brought to the fore years of collaborative multi-agency work.

Indeed, Kenya has achieved a lot over the last decade in terms of fighting terrorism and violent extremism.

First, is the successful implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism, rallying a diverse array of State and non-State actors in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). The greater involvement of communities and community-based groups in PCVE has resulted in enhanced vigilance especially in areas considered more vulnerable to terror attacks.

Second, is successful collaboration with Kenya's regional and international partners in the war on terrorism. Kenya is now recognized as a leading player in CT in the global South. Kenya is bound to continue to support regional, continental and international efforts to end violent extremism that results in

terrorist acts.

Third, is strengthening of the multi-agency approach, rallying together all security agencies involved in combating terrorism.

Fourth, is countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. The threat posed by emerging technologies in propagating terrorist narratives and enlisting sympathizers especially youth is real.

The National Counter Terrorism Center is working closely with local and international partners in understanding and effectively responding to terrorist exploitation of new technologies. This includes creating awareness among youth, parents, caregivers and teachers on the dangers of online radicalization.

The Riverside tragedy reminds us the need to revitalize our collective efforts and commitment to eliminate terrorism and violent extremism from our midst. Together, we can create a safe environment for ourselves and bequeath the same to our children.

As we remember those who lost their lives in the attack, and celebrate the survivors, we also salute our gallant heroes and heroines, both civilians and security officers, who put their lives at great peril to avert massive casualties during the heinous attack.

(Dr. Nyawira is the Director, National Counter Terrorism Center. This is an abridged version of an article published in Kenya's Sunday Nation newspaper on 15 January 2024)

Kenya launches online observatory on violent extremism

In a major boost to the Kenya's counterterrorism war, the portal, known as Jasiri Observatory, will be used to sensitize, inform and empower individuals and communities to understand and respond to violent ideologies peddled by extremist groups like Al-Shabaab.

It will also strengthen ongoing efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE), a process that involves directly addressing the underlying drivers of terrorism using non-coercive strategies including counter-messaging, public outreach and de-radicalization

programmes.

One can visit the portal www.jasiri.go.ke to learn more on violent extremism and ways to avoid falling prey to radical ideologies aimed at propagating hate, fear and violence in society.



See <https://jasiri.go.ke/>

According to the Director NCTC Dr. Nyawira, the portal empowers individuals and communities to identify and discredit violent extremist ideologies, facilitating public dialogue on the threat of violent extremism. "We want Kenyans to speak out against violent extremism through this portal, hence the appellation 'Jasiri' which is Kiswahili for 'courage'.

Jasiri Observatory will serve as a platform for continuous public dialogue and feedback on PCVE and drive public conversations on fighting extremism.

The portal will also enhance efficiency and coordination in implementation of PCVE initiatives by building a strong and integrated network of stakeholders.

The observatory launch coincided with the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attack on Garissa University (then known as Garissa University College) in 2015. During the atrocity, 148 people lost their lives and 80 were injured.

"We chose to launch Jasiri during the anniversary of the 2015 Garissa attack, as this is an opportune moment to reflect

on the strides made towards making our country safer from terrorism and violent extremism," remarked Dr. Nyawira.

The Jasiri Observatory portal is expected to support the implementation of the NSCVE, currently under review, to ensure sustained responsiveness to the evolving threat of terrorism. The second phase of public participation on draft NSCVE is ongoing.

‘We commemorate a beautiful story of resilience, not an attack’



Dr. Nyawira lights a candle to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Garissa University attack.

2 April 2015 will go down as one of the darkest days in Kenya's history. Terrorists invaded Garissa University (GU) killing 147 innocent people and injuring scores others. In the aftermath of the attack, the world rallied in support of the university using the hashtag #147notjustanumber, to honor the slain students.

Nine years later, the institution is an inspiring beacon of hope and resilience. This was evident during the ceremony on 2 April 2024 to honor the memories of the students who lost their lives. A powerful message came out of the ceremony, that much as the memories were painful, the university had emerged from the tragedy stronger.

A horrific event that was meant to divide Kenyans along sectarian lines had instead united us. Speakers at the event were emphatic that the story of the university did not end with the attack but had only begun. A story of triumph over adversity.

One speaker summed it thus: "The beautiful story we write today (about the university) is a story of resilience. They (terrorists) may have put out a candle at that time but many more candles have been lit."

The students presented moving skits and poem in honor of the fallen comrades. The theme was an exhortation to the youth to reject social divisions based on religion and instead foster inter-faith cohesion and accept diversity.

The attack changed what was then Garissa University College for the better. With State support, the institution is now a fully-fledged university, drawing students from across the country, defying the terrorists' intent of fomenting religious exclusion. "We may not want to remember the traumatic events of that day, but it has been a great achievement to be where we are today, and I thank all of those who have stood with us," said the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ahmed Osman Warfa.

In addition, Kenya entered a new phase of religious tolerance contrary to the attempt by Al Shabaab to use the attack to spark

off sectarian conflict in the country based on religion.

According to Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome, a respected religious scholar, who spoke at the event, one of the lasting legacies of the 2015 terrorist attack on GU was that it triggered a conversation on inter-faith cohesion in Kenya, a dialogue that is still ongoing, and has been a pillar of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism since 2016.

Prior to the commemorative event, the students had been engaged in a two-day training on countering extremism by promoting religious cohesion and peaceful co-existence. The training was organised by the National Counter Terrorism Center, and Grassroots Impact Advisors, a civil society organisation dedicated to promoting community resilience to terrorism and violent extremism.



Prof. Ahmed Warfa, Vice Chancellor, Garissa University addresses the gathering at the university hall during the commemoration



Students listen to a speaker during the commemorative event

NCTC hosts Iftar dinner for Garissa university students

The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) hosted an Iftar Dinner event for students of Garissa University on April 2, as part of the commemorative activities on the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attack on the institution in 2015.



The message on the students' T-shirts clearly speaks to the need for tolerance regardless of one's background



Garissa Township MP Hon. Dekow Barrow speaks at the event. He praised the university as an example of peaceful co-existence among Kenyans.



Mr. Fred Ndegwa, Head of Partnerships at the National Counter Terrorism Center addresses the gathering.

Garissa Special School receives food items



The National Counter Terrorism Center in partnership with the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation donated food items to Garissa Special School as part of Corporate Social Responsibility. The ceremony took place on April 3 this year. The institution caters for the needs of children with special learning needs.

Kenya hosts Global Counter Terrorism Forum

Kenya further cemented her credentials as a leading player in global counter-terrorism circles by successfully hosting a multilateral forum on preventing and countering terrorism in Nairobi in February this year.

Known as the 23rd Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the forum brought together hundreds

of delegates from around the world to discuss collaborative efforts to deter terrorism.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Ambassador Walid Elfiky, hailed the revival of the East African Working Group as timely. Director of Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Center, Dr. Nyawira said: "The importance of this East African Working Group is to rally together the region and immunize our societies against terrorists and

co-chaired by Egypt and the EU, focused on collaborative action to deter the terrorism threat. Egypt and EU reiterated their strong commitment to supporting African-led efforts to combat terrorism and ideologies that underlie it, spotlighting the partnership with African states, regional organizations, and diverse stakeholders representing the



Amb. Monica Juma (front, left), National Security Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kenya, officially opens the 23rd Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in Nairobi.

of delegates from around the world to discuss collaborative efforts to deter terrorism.

Co-chaired by Egypt and the European Union, the GCTF discussed ongoing efforts around the globe to identify critical civilian-led counterterrorism needs and to mobilize the necessary expertise and resources to support capacity building. Discussions also centered around countering terrorism financing.



While opening the forum that was co-chaired by Kenya and Kuwait, National Security Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kenya, Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, said, "Kenya and Kuwait having actively contributed to regional and global efforts to degrade the threat of terrorism, bring frontline experiences and perspectives that speak to the geographical context and thematic issues relevant to the region.

Director of Counter Terrorism Unit in the

any other form of violent extremism that is likely to emerge among the communities."

GCTF - a platform for multilateral engagement to prevent and counter terrorism - also pledged support to African-led efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism by partnering and engaging with African states, regional organizations and those closest to the most vulnerable communities.

The 23rd Coordinating Committee Meeting,

interests - and addressing the concerns - of vulnerable communities.

Egypt and EU will continue to co-chair the GCTF for two more years. Nadia Constantini, European External Action Service Special Envoy for Counterterrorism, GCTF Co-Chair, said:

"We will continue our efforts to support African partners tackle - and to help make their populations resilient to - terrorism,

violent extremism, and their ideologies.”

Established in 2011, GCTF provides practitioners from across the world an opportunity to develop and share effective interventions to respond to the complex, dynamic and widespread threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

The countries comprising the Forum are: Algeria, Colombia, France, Italy, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Egypt, India, Japan, Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, United Kingdom, China, European Union, Indonesia, Kenya, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Switzerland and United States.



Energy regulator staff trained on counter-terrorism measures

On February 12-15, 2024, NCTC, at the invite of the Ministry of Energy, conducted a strategic training workshop for senior managers at the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) focusing on identifying and responding to terrorism threats in the energy sector in cybersecurity measures. The EPRA team also learnt about various counterterrorism strategies and instilling a robust security culture within the organisation and enhancing resilience against security challenges.



Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority senior management are sensitized on counter-terrorism awareness.

Senior public officers attend terror prevention course

An all-of-government approach is critical to integrating prevention of violent extremism in the public sector. Government officers from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have been undergoing regular training to sharpen their knowledge on detecting, disrupting and deterring terrorism.

In its legal mandate to undertake awareness and capacity building for public and private sector, National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) trained Forty senior government officials representing various MDAs attended the course at the Kenya School of Government in Kabete on March 18-24 2024. The training was sponsored by United State Agency for International Development (USAID).

The participating MDAs included the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Anti-Terrorism Police Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the University of Nairobi. This was the fourth cohort to undergo the training programme.

Italy hosts forum on enhancing security at sports events

A team from the National Counter Terrorism Center participated in an international forum in Rome, Italy, on enhancing multilateral and institutional cooperation in protecting vulnerable targets, specifically major sporting events.

The forum organised by the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Interregional Criminal Justice Institute (UNICRI), and the International Center for Sports Security (ICSS), was attended by security officers drawn from fourteen African countries and the Confederation of African Football (CAF), at the Scuola Superiore Di Polizia (Police High Academy) in Rome on 12-15 January, 2024.

Kenya has in the past hosted major international sporting events and is slated to host the 2027 African Cup of Nations jointly with Uganda and Tanzania. (See photo on page 15)

Meru County to bolster grassroots PCVE activities

State and non-state actors in Meru county have resolved to work closely in building capacity to implement the county action plan (CAP) on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE).

Stakeholders in the county participated in a workshop in March hosted by ACT! Kenya in collaboration with Caritas Meru, under the auspices of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). The purpose of the forum was to strengthen the capacity of Meru County Engagement Forum (CEF) members in PCVE, as well as undertake public participation in the ongoing review of the NSCVE.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Oddilliah Ndeti, Deputy County Commissioner, Imenti North Sub County, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in countering terrorism.

“Coordination strategies adopted by the government and propelled by the whole- of-society approach and involving all stakeholders have achieved much in boosting security in

the county and the nation at large,” she said, reiterating the significance of collective action in ensuring security.

Mr. Anthony Kinyua from ACT! Kenya highlighted the importance of adopting a preventive approach focused on tackling the root causes of radicalization and recruitment into violent extremist groups. Mr. Sangale Nchololoi from the National Counter Terrorism Centre emphasized the necessity of cooperation and partnerships in all PCVE interventions.

The capacity-building event in Meru served as a testament to the dedication of stakeholders towards empowering communities against violent extremism. By equipping CEF members with the necessary skills and knowledge, the initiative aims to foster resilience and promote peace and stability in the country.



A public participation forum to review the National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism. Counties like Meru have also been reviewing their County Action Plans on Violent Extremism.

Fostering trust between communities and security actors in Nakuru



Community members and officers from various security agencies at a workshop on building trust between the public and law enforcement agencies in Nakuru

Mistrust between the public and law enforcement agencies has often been cited as a barrier to tackling insecurity including extremism within communities.

Building trust between community and security actors is therefore seen as an effective way of encouraging citizens to willingly report Violent Extremist (VE) incidences. It also helps in identifying and disrupting terrorist planning and execution as most VE behaviors are observed or even known in advance by the community.

For this reason, the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) has prioritized collaboration between communities and security actors in countering violent extremism (CVE).

NCTC teamed up with MIDRIFT HURINET, a non-profit organisation promoting human rights, peace, security and good governance, to organize a two-day sensitization forum for community representatives and security actors in Nakuru county.

The forum focused on how to build awareness within communities on the need to work closely with the local administration and law enforcers in early identification and reporting of VE incidences before they escalate into serious security issues.

Officers from the National Police Service (NPS), Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Administration Police Service (APS), Kenya Police Service (KPS) attended.

NCTC, KWS train rangers in Northern Kenya conservancy

In its ongoing effort to enhance stakeholders' capacity to counter terrorism and violent extremism effectively, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) has been collaborating with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to train rangers in the Northern Conservation Area.

The training activities happened in March in Moyale, Wajir and Marsabit areas and targeted KWS staff and conservation rangers, who are tasked with protecting wildlife in the Northern Conservation Area. This is one of the key tourist attractions in Kenya managed by KWS and includes Marsabit National Park and Sibiloi National Park.

The KWS officers working in the conservation area together with the rangers, mostly drawn from the Northern Rangeland Trust, learnt how to assess the terrorism landscape, identify signs, tactics and techniques used by terrorists, and the role of security personnel in preventing violent extremism.

KWS Senior Assistant Director for Northern Conservation Area, Gedion Kebati, hailed the initiative saying it will boost security in the vast, remote region.



Administrators in Kiambu acquire skills to tame radicalization



Capacity- building programs like this one involving local administration officers in Kiambu County augment community-led initiatives to combat radicalization into violent extremism.

Administrative officers play an important role in ensuring law and order in society. It is therefore important that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools for community-led approaches to dealing

with the growing threat of radicalization to violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

In February, the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) organised a two-day sensitization forum for 28 National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) in Kiambu County on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE).

The training is aligned with NCTC's mandate of facilitating capacity-building in counter-terrorism and creating public awareness of prevention of violent extremism.

The NGAOs trained included Assistant County Commissioners, Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and Ward Administrators from Ruiru, Juja and Githurai sub-counties in Kiambu County.

NCTC hosted the forum in partnership with the African Center for Endangered Security (ACSE) and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), which funds the Accelerated Response Initiative on Violent Extremism (ARIVE) program.

Kiambu County Commissioner, Duncan Darusi, opened the forum by emphasising the need for innovative community mobilization to address the drivers of violent extremism in the county including high youth unemployment, drug abuse and poverty, which increase vulnerability to radicalization and recruitment.

Experts from NCTC recognised the important role of NGAOs in delivering the National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism, the policy document outlining how Kenya addresses radicalisation and related security threats.

The sensitization intended to positively equip interfaith leaders with skills on correct narrative regarding Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). This will enable them develop alternative and counter messaging to minimize Violent Extremism (VE) threat by preventing radicalization and recruitment. In addition, the faith leaders were enlightened on the early indicators of radicalization.

Religious leaders turn to alternative narratives to counter violence

The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) in partnership with Strategies for Northern Development (SND) sensitized Marsabit interfaith leaders on Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and how to develop alternative and counter narratives towards countering terrorist ideologies.

Ideology being one of the tools exploited by extremist groups to recruit and radicalize their target audience, effective spread of alternative and correct narratives to respective congregations by interfaith leaders is key. Faith-based leaders have a big role to play in educating people about what is true according their faith

and teachings as well as preventing waves of negative narratives implanted by violent extremists influencing wrong ideologies.

The sensitization intended to positively equip interfaith leaders with skills on correct narrative regarding Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), for them to support in developing alternative and counter messaging to minimize Violent Extremism (VE) threat by preventing radicalization and recruitment. In addition, the faith leaders were enlightened on the early indicators of radicalization.

Empowering judiciary to fight terrorism and violent extremism

The judicial system plays an important role in the fight against terrorism, fostering community resilience and promoting social cohesion. The Judiciary is also instrumental in criminal justice responses to terrorism. Therefore, judges and other judicial officers need a good grasp of how terrorist networks plan, finance and execute their activities, in order to draw the interconnectedness between legal proceedings and the broader efforts to address the root causes of terrorism.

Speaking at a forum to train judges on counter-terrorism and terrorist financing, Supreme Court Judge Smokin Wanjala, underscored the significance of the training in enhancing Kenya's legal capacity in combating terrorism. Justice Wanjala noted the judiciary is a key player in the nation's comprehensive approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. He added the country was undergoing a paradigm shift towards a more holistic and inclusive approach to addressing the threat posed by such serious crimes.

During the forum, NCTC engaged the judges on the global and regional trends of terrorism, the radicalization process and the early warnings to watch out for. Beyond the traditional legal framework, the sessions delved into the intricacies of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). NCTC provided trainers and experts on countering financing of terrorism.

The whole government approach to countering and preventing violent extremism was a central theme throughout the training, highlighting the importance of the judicial system in the fight against terrorism.

The training was a joint collaboration between the Judiciary, Kenya Judiciary Academy, European Union-funded Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism in Eastern, Southern, and Central Africa and Yemen (AML-CFT ESCAY), The Attorney General Alliance-Africa Programme, and the US Department of Justice.



Representatives from Kenya and other countries who attended the forum on enhancing capacity of judicial officers in countering terrorism and terrorist financing.

Improving police skills for effective community responses to terrorism



Some of the police officers who attended the workshop. Improving the ability of law enforcement agencies to identify and counter the threat of extremism enhances the effectiveness of community-based policing approaches to fighting terrorism.

In the realm of law enforcement, staying ahead of evolving security threats is paramount. This includes crime prevention as an important element in effective policing at the community level.

The United Nations encourages countries to develop community-oriented policing strategies especially in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). Improving police understanding and knowledge of PCVE is therefore critical to strengthening the ability of national law enforcement agencies to work with communities to tackle security threats related to terrorism like radicalization of individuals into violent extremism.

Kenya has adopted a community-centric PCVE approach as part of the all-of-society policy on fighting extremism and terrorism, with every county adopting an action plan as the implementation mechanism of the NSCVE. The National Counter Terrorism

Center (NCTC) has prioritized capacity-building initiatives aimed at equipping security officers with essential knowledge on two critical fronts: radicalization into violent extremism and disengagement, and understanding terrorism and counter-terrorism measures.

In April, NCTC and the National Police Service organised a workshop for officers in the Rift Valley region as part of continuous learning and improvement in PCVE within law enforcement circles. NCTC trainers guided the sessions geared to deepening officers' understanding of the radicalization process, particularly identifying early signs of violent extremism and effective preventive measures.

The police officers also learnt about the intricate dynamics of terrorism and how they can proactively counter emerging threats. The training at the Regional Police Training Center in Nakuru involved

officers who are currently undergoing middle management training including Officers Commanding Stations (OCSs).

Rift Valley Regional Police Commander, Tom Odero, emphasized the need for law enforcement officers to continuously sharpen their skills and knowledge in dealing with evolving threats linked to violent extremism.

Training programs like this are part of the NCTC's overarching mandate of enhancing law enforcement competency through capacity building. By facilitating such training and sensitization initiatives, the NCTC contributes significantly to the professional development of police and other security actors in Kenya. It also lays the groundwork for future collaborations aimed at strengthening Kenyans' collective resilience against terrorism and extremism.

African States urged to boost regional approach to fighting terror

In the ever-evolving landscape of counter-terrorism, collaboration and institution building stand as pillars of resilience against the persistent threat of terrorism.

Recently, the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) played a pivotal role in a high-level African Counter Terrorism meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, on April 22-23, 2024.

This gathering aimed to address the escalating menace of terrorism in Africa through enhanced multilateral cooperation and institution strengthening.

The primary objective of the event was to reshape the collective response to terrorism in Africa, emphasizing African-led and African-owned solutions. Delegates convened to review the nature and severity of the threat, agree on strategic priorities, and propose concrete measures to address terrorism.

The meeting also sought to foster deeper regional collaboration, enhance institutional capacity, and facilitate the exchange of good practices to combat the dynamic terror landscape in Africa.

Organized by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the forum brought together a spectrum of stakeholders including Heads of State and Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense, National Security Advisors, Intelligence Chiefs, and representatives from continental blocks and regional economic communities.

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Amina Mohammed, and Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mousa Faki Mahamat, graced the occasion, emphasizing the

need for closer collaboration among African States in eliminating the scourge of terrorism.

Nigeria's President Ahmed Bola Tinubu urged focused action: "Let us keep rhetoric to a minimum. Let us be focused and dedicated to pinpointing solutions and embarking on the meaningful and strong action needed to win the day and free our continent of violent extremists."

National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), through the Director highlighted the need for African-led responses and effectiveness of localized strategies: "I am very encouraged by the many African-led responses that have proved uniquely effective in responding to and degrading violent extremism on the continent." She said.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, emphasized the importance of supporting Africa-led initiatives: "The success of UNOCT in Africa hinges on its support for Africa-led programmes and solutions."

By engaging with other institutions from across Africa, NCTC aims to strengthen regional cooperation, share experiences, and maintain visibility in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and counter-terrorism activities on the continent.

It is also a demonstration of Kenya's commitment to regional cooperation and its pivotal role in fostering a secure and resilient Africa. As the fight against terrorism continues, collaboration, institution building, and African-led solutions remain indispensable tools in safeguarding peace and stability across the continent.



Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Center delegation with other dignitaries at the high-level African Counter Terrorism meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2024.

Coastal counties vow to prevent luring of youth into terrorism



Kilifi County Engagement Forum meeting in April 2024 to review implementation of the County Action Plan on preventing and countering violent extremism

The counties of Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa have pledged to step up efforts to diminish violent extremism likely to fuel terrorist activities in the coastal region.

This follows a series of meetings to review progress with execution of County Action Plans (CAPs) on fighting extremism in the three counties. The meetings were organised by the National Counter Terrorism Center

(NCTC) in coordination with the respective County Engagement Forums (CEFs).

Key among the issues discussed in the meetings was the prevalence of radicalization among youth and ways to address drivers like rampant drug abuse, lack of jobs and perceived generational marginalization in the

region. The role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in preventing and countering violent extremism was also discussed.

NCTC coordinates and brings together the County Engagement for a made up of security actors, educators, political leaders, faith leaders, youth, media and civil society organisations as the implementors of the NSCVE.

The meetings took place on April 17-18, 2024. Present in the meetings were County Commissioners, Deputy County Commissioners and CEF Pillar members in each county as well as representatives of various CSOs.

Various CSO were represented: HURIA, PACs, Samba Sports Youth Agenda, Search for Common Ground, Radio Kaya, Elimu Care, YEM, Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance, Together for Society, Sauti ya Wanawake Pwani, HISIA, County Government of Mombasa, Collaboration of Women in Development (CWD), JUHUDI, CICC, Mombasa Women of Faith (MWOFF) and Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security (AWAPSA).

Mr. Mebakari Mwatabu, who represented the Governor of Kwale, H.E Fatuma Achani, rooted for affirmative action in empowering the most vulnerable members in the communities. Mr. Ronald Mwiwawi, Mombasa Deputy County Commissioner, urged residents to remain vigilant against radicalization of the youth.

Kenya Defence Forces in counter-terrorism awareness drive

Kenya's war on terrorism and violent extremism is primarily supported by a multi-agency effort anchored in law and policy. Enhancing the capacity and competency of the various institutions to collaborate with each other in detecting, countering and combating terrorism is crucial to success.

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) continue to play an indispensable role in securing the country from external aggression including attacks by Al Shabaab elements in Somalia. In addition, KDF is a key player in the domestic preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) agenda as part of the multi-agency framework.

In this regard, KDF has partnered with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC)



Kenya Defence Forces officers at the counter terrorism training at the School of Infantry in Isiolo County.

in building institutional capacity in PCVE and in supporting community-based initiatives to root out extremism.

In February, KDF in conjunction with NCTC undertook a Security Sector Counter Violent

Extremism (SSCVE) program targeting troops in Lamu County. The initiative was also extended to community elders and religious leaders, in a bid to build trust between communities and security actors.

PICTORIAL



Inter-faith leaders consult at a forum in to discuss promote alternative narratives to counter extremist violence among communities in Marsabit County. (see story on page 10).



Students at Garissa University follow a presentation during a two-day training on promoting inter-faith cohesion organised by the National Counter Terrorism Center and Grassroots Impact Advisors, a civil society organisation. (Photo: courtesy GIA).



A team from the National Counter Terrorism Center visited the Scuola Superiore Di Polizia (Police High Academy) in Rome, Italy in January, 2024, as part of training in protecting major sporting events as vulnerable targets for terrorists.



A workshop organised for senior police officers in Rift Valley region. Such training programs are geared to equipping law enforcement with knowledge and skills in boosting community policing as part of Kenya's strategy to curtail extremism.



Participants at a workshop on counter terrorism awareness organised by the National Counter Terrorism Center for senior public officers at the Kenya School of Government in March 2024.

#WeAreStronger



IF YOU
SEE
SOMETHING
SAY
SOMETHING

Let's expose terrorists in our midst for our security and safety. **See something, say something.**

Report it to NCTC at **0800721600**
(toll free)

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