



Hedayah E-Newsletter

Upcoming Activities*

24-25
MAY MAY
TURKEY

Radicalization of
Far Right
Movements in
Europe Workshop

30- 1
OCT NOV
TURKEY

International
CVE Research
Conference

*Dates subject to change or cancellation.
Kindly email us at info@hedayah.ae.

Updates

- **How-To Guide for South East Asia Counter-Narratives, Now Available in Tagalog and Bahasa Malay**

Hedayah recently released its publication [Undermining Violent Extremist Narratives in South East Asia: A How-To Guide](#) in [Tagalog](#) and [Bahasa Malay](#). The How-To Guide is part of a project funded by the Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department to enhance and amplify existing counter-narratives in South East Asia. The South East Asia collection of counter-narratives is available on Hedayah's Counter-Narrative Library, a password-protected portal of over 320 existing counter-narratives. For more information about the Counter-Narrative Library, visit our website [here](#), or contact CNLibrary.Admin@hedayah.ae.

- **Save the Date, International CVE Research Conference 2017**

Hedayah will hold this year's *International CVE Research Conference 2017* from 30 October-1 November 2017 in Antalya, Turkey in partnership with the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (Ortadogu Stratejik Arastirmalar Merkezi (ORSAM)). The Conference is partially sponsored by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The *International CVE Research Conference* is an annual event that shares the latest, cutting-edge research in CVE with relevant policymakers, practitioners and academics in order to better enhance the evidence-base for CVE efforts. We are currently looking for partners, co-organizers and sponsors for the conference, as well as recommendations for speakers who can present on recent research on violent extremism and efforts to counter it. For more information or recommendations, please contact research.conference@hedayah.ae.

Activities

Hedayah Conducts Creative Minds for Social Good Workshop

From 18-19 April 2017, Hedayah in collaboration with "en.v", Kuwaiti partner, delivered its third workshop on *Creative Minds for Social Good* at Sadu House in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The workshop brought together the top campaign ideas submitted by select participants across Kuwait and paired them with experienced creative mentors (i.e. artists, filmmakers, writers, and branding/marketing experts) from the UAE and Kuwait. These mentors helped further refine the original proposals to ensure a more creative approach while delivering messages on countering violent extremism.





The workshop helped build the capacity of Kuwaitis to create content through campaigns that counter hate speech and violent extremist messages online. The campaigns also promote positive messages of tolerance, multiculturalism, interfaith and inter religious dialogue.

PCVE National Action Plans Task Force Holds Introductory Workshop

From 9-11 April 2017, the PCVE National Action Plans Task Force held an introductory workshop for nine different Governments, hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Geneva, Switzerland. The Task Force is jointly led by Hedayah's Washington D.C. Office and the Global Center on Cooperative Security (GCCS). In line with recommendations from the UN Secretary General, it encourages the development of more holistic state-level responses which set national priorities for addressing the drivers of violent extremism. Hedayah welcomed senior representatives from Cameroon, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia.

The workshop introduced participants to a framework and methodology for developing *National Action Plans*. It also provided an opportunity for mutual learning, with the expert participants sharing lessons learned and elements of international good practice. The Task Force looks forward to engaging more with these countries and facilitating the development of realistic and effective National Action Plans which can help to reduce the threat of violent extremism.

Hedayah Facilitates RFTF Workshop in Tunisia

From 27 – 31 March 2017, Hedayah facilitated a workshop organized by the National Counter Terrorism Commission of Tunisia in Tunis, Tunisia. The workshop was part of the wider *Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighter (RFTF)* program in collaboration with the Government of Tunisia on the topic of community-based reintegration programs for returnees.

The five-day workshop aimed at exploring potential reintegration programs for RFTFs in the country to complement the rule of law measures and ensure long-term national security. Participants included relevant media organizations, civil society organizations as well as members of the National Counter Terrorism Commission and focal representatives in key ministries. [Read more.](#)

Engagements

Hedayah Participates in CVE Workshop in Singapore

From 20-21 April 2017, Hedayah took part in the *Counter Violent Extremism* workshop held by Facebook and the Lee Kuan Yew school of Public Policy in Singapore, Singapore. The workshop allowed both private and





public sector organizations to showcase their respective work within their respective countries. Mr. Talal Faris, Senior Program Associate at Hedayah, shared the various initiatives that Hedayah is currently involved in both on and offline.

Hedayah Joins the RESOLVE Network Steering Committee Meeting and Seminar

From 17-20 April 2017, Hedayah participated in the RESOLVE Network Steering Committee meeting and its seminar on *Preventing Violent Extremism: The Case for Locally Defined, Evidence Based Responses* held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Steering Committee meeting was convened by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Addis Ababa as co-chair of the Committee.

As part of Hedayah's commitment to the RESOLVE Network, Ms. Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst at Hedayah, joined discussions on the priorities, goals and strategies of the Network for the next 3 years. The members also identified roles and responsibilities for each of the Steering Committee members. During the seminar, Ms. Zeiger presented the "[Guidelines and Good Practices: Developing National P/CVE Strategies and Action Plans](#)" with case studies from the East Africa region through its National Action Plan Task Force, based out of Hedayah's Washington, D.C Office.

RESOLVE is a global effort that offers an online suite of open-source data, tools and curated research to help researchers, practitioners and policy makers gain fresh insight into the drivers of violent extremism. For more about RESOLVE Network and the role of the Steering Committee, please see www.resolvenet.org.

Hedayah Outlines Regional Activities at the GCTF Horn of Africa Working Group Meeting

On 6 April 2017, Hedayah participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum Horn of Africa Working Group's Sixth Plenary Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the meeting, Ms. Jessie Francescon, Director of Dialogue and Communications at Hedayah, provided the participants with an update on Hedayah's past, present and upcoming activities in the region focused on but not limited to counter-narratives, national CVE strategies, CVE and education, and CVE communications. In the upcoming months, Hedayah will launch a new counter-narrative collection focused on East and Horn of Africa and will also work with its regional partner, the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Djibouti.





Hedayah Visits Germany Under the Auspices of the U.A.E Embassy In Berlin

From 24-28 March 2017, Hedayah visited Berlin, Germany as an invitation from the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Berlin to strengthen ties, explore and identify areas of collaboration with German government agencies, NGOs, experts and practitioners.

During the visit, Hedayah's delegation H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director and Ms. Wedad Al Hassen, Senior Program Associate, took part in a luncheon hosted by H.E. Ali Al Ahmed, the U.A.E Ambassador to Berlin, the Leipzig Book Fair, a panel discussion at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) foundation among other activities. H.E. Mr. Kruse presented an overview of Hedayah's ongoing initiatives and addressed senior diplomats, NGOs and journalists on the importance of awareness in counter-terrorism. The delegation also visited local institutions and met with its representatives. These institutions include the Refugee Accommodation Center in Timplerhof Berlin.

Hedayah Highlights the Role of CVE in Education at the Education for PVE Conference

On 21 March 2017, Hedayah presented on education and CVE at the *Education for Preventing Violent Extremism* conference jointly organized by UNESCO and the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.

The conference featured a keynote address by Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO and was opened by Mr. Pavel Telicka, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and was led by Mr. Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Member of the European Parliament. Ms. Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst at Hedayah, stressed the need for localized, comprehensive approaches to PVE and education. She also highlighted two case studies from Pakistan and Nigeria from Hedayah's networks and experiences.

Hedayah Presents at the Int'l Conference on "Countering Violent Extremism in Morocco: Reconstructing Narratives Through Digital Strategies"

From 17-19 March 2017, Hedayah participated in a leading conference on *Countering Violent Extremism in Morocco: Reconstructing Narratives through Digital Strategies* organized by Search for Common Ground (SEARCH-MOROCCO) and The Rabita Mohammadia League of Scholars (RABITA) in Rabat, Morocco. The conference brought together more than forty emerging leaders to include social media experts, religious scholars, civil society actors, educators, government officials and social entrepreneurs.

The conference aimed to share good practices and knowledge in countering violent extremism and to create powerful and targeted digital campaigns for amplifying local, credible alternative narratives to violent extremism. During a panel titled "Innovation and Best Practices in Developing Alternative Narratives", Ms. Lilah Elsayed, Research Associate at Hedayah, presented on ways to undermine and deconstruct extremist





messages through the adoption and application of innovative approaches in designing effective alternative narratives to violent extremism. Ms. Elsayed discussed the nine steps illustrated in the [“Undermining Violent Extremist Narratives in South East Asia: A How-To Guide”](#) to develop effective and credible counter-narratives. She also reflected on diverse regional practices and highlighted case studies of effective regional counter-narrative campaigns.

