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RELEASE IN PART B6

Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremists: The Bureau of Counterterrorism's Approach in Action

The Challenge: As thousands of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) begin to return home from Syria and Iraq, prosecution can be only part of the solution. Our partners must also consider how to **incorporate rehabilitation and reintegration programs** into their policies and programs. In support of that objective, CT has:

- **Framed** Terms of Discussion – key documents include the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) *The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon*, which served as the basis for UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178
- **Launched** a new GCTF/UN initiative, which builds on CT's extensive work on prison rehabilitating violent extremists – to focus on this specific issue
- **Shaped** courses at the GCTF-inspired International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) in Malta for countries to learn how to manage returning FTFs
- **Engaged** donors to sponsor further iterations of these courses at *Hedayah*, the center of excellence for countering violent extremism (CVE) in Abu Dhabi
- **Supported** Regional UN workshops for governments in Southeast Asia, the Balkans, North Africa, and the Middle East

Identifying Rehabilitation and Reintegration Good Practices – The Hague, 2011



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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Clarke Ellis, Senior Reviewer

In 2011, CT determined that prisons should be a primary focus because:

- Prisons – especially those that are poorly managed – are hotbeds for radicalization and recruitment to violence, particularly in places like Yemen, Iraq, and Pakistan;
- Many violent extremist offenders who are currently incarcerated will eventually be released. Steps need to be taken to ensure they do not return to violence;
- A well-run prison isolates individuals from their previous negative contacts, networks,

“The Rome Memorandum ... could well become for the rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders what the UN Standard Minimum Rules have become for the promotion of humane conditions and good custodial principles and practice.”

-Dr. Peter Bennett, Director, International Centre for Prison Studies, December 2013

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and influences, often making them more amenable to reevaluating their violent extremist past and activities

U.S. advisors facilitating Indonesian Corrections Strategic Planning Session



In cooperation with the UN, CT **launched** an international initiative to identify good practices in disengagement, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Specifically, CT:

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- **Spearheaded the effort** to turn those good practices into an internationally-acknowledged framework, which became the **GCTF Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders**. The good practices emphasize the need for a rule-of-law approach to managing violent extremist inmates. In particular, the **Rome Principles** stress that: (1) rehabilitation

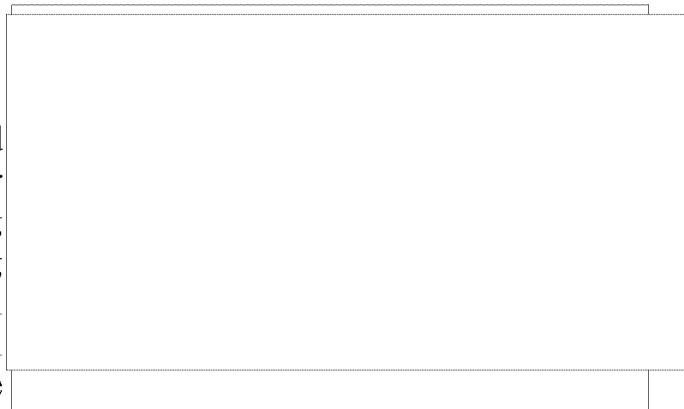
can only succeed within a secure and well-managed custodial setting; and (2) the role of family and community is integral to the rehabilitation process.

- **Provided funding** to the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and several non-governmental organizations (NGO) to educate and train countries on the GCTF Rome Memorandum Good Practices, helping them to develop rehabilitation and reintegration programs that respect international norms while accounting for local contexts and cultures.
- **Worked with experts** to develop and adapt risk assessment tools for evaluating violent extremist inmates. These tools are being piloted in Indonesia and Philippines.
- **Developed additional guidance** for rehabilitation and reintegration practitioners, such as teachers, religious scholars, psychologists, and community leaders.

Case Studies

Yemen

Establishing an effective rehabilitation and reintegration program in Yemen is crucial for reducing violent extremist recruitment, preventing prison outbreaks, and, potentially, for facilitating the return of Yemeni detainees being held in Guantanamo Bay. President Hadi established an interagency committee to manage this effort. The Yemenis are making progress, despite serious internal security challenges. In response, CT

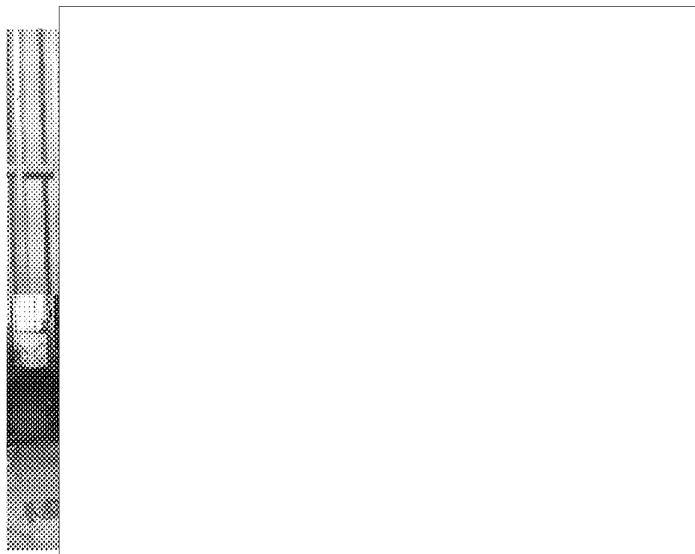


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Yemen Rehabilitation Steering Group Meeting – Riyadh, January 2014

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Jail to court, then back to school and family

funded a UNICRI initiative to establish an international steering group, comprised of Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to support Yemeni efforts. The GCTF *Rome Memorandum* frames the steering group's work.

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Pakistan

Many low-level, non-violent offenders are held in overcrowded prisons where they are exposed to extremist militants and made vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization. CT funds an NGO to provide *pro bono* legal assistance and vocational training to inmates

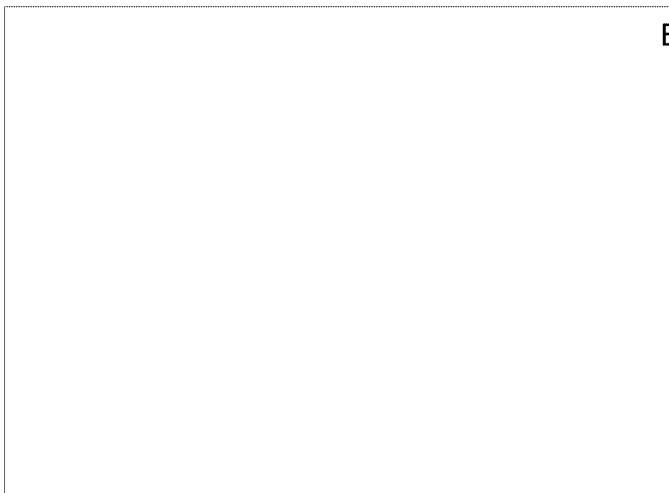
who have been detained for low-level, non-violent offenses. The NGO has completed a pilot project at four Punjabi prisons and recently commenced operations at a large prison near Lahore. The NGO has facilitated the release and reintegration of hundreds of these inmates, including juveniles.

Indonesia

Indonesia has a large population of violent extremist offenders, many of whom have relatively short sentences and will be released soon. CT is sponsoring a DOJ/ICITAP project at two high-level security prisons to train Indonesian Corrections on proper management of terrorist inmates. CT is also funding UNICRI to assist Indonesia with the development of a rehabilitation and reintegration program, which includes culturally-nuanced risk assessment protocols.

Philippines

Philippine jails and prison are dramatically overcrowded, with terrorist inmates housed together with non-extremist offenders, an environment where terrorist recruitment can flourish. A new law is likely to reduce time served for many violent extremist offenders. In response, CT has funded DOJ/ICITAP and an international NGO to create a case study-based training that encourages interagency collaboration and promotes implementation of the GCTF *Rome Memorandum* Good Practices in support of better reintegration programs. Successfully piloted at the national level in late 2013, this training course will be tested at the



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Grasping a key *Rome Memorandum* Good Practice

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sub-national level in Mindanao in early 2015 (Yemen and Nigeria have also expressed interest in receiving the course).

Mali

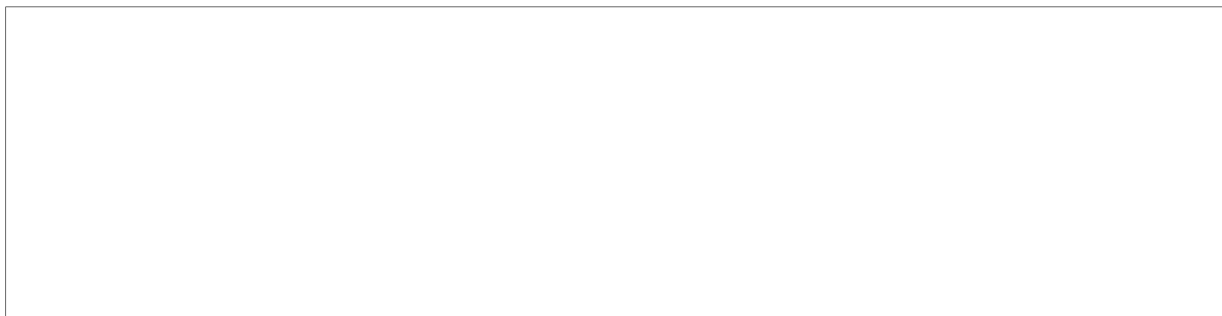
Mali's prisons are badly overcrowded and inadequately secured against prison breaks and external attacks by violent extremist groups, including al-Qa'ida in the Maghreb (AQIM). In response, CT has encouraged UNICRI to convene an international steering group, comprised of the France, Morocco, Singapore, and the United States to offer assistance to Mali in this area. UNICRI anticipates sending an assessment mission to Bamako in early 2015.

"[The Rome Memorandum] is the first international soft law compendium aimed at fostering and facilitating States' efforts to counter violent extremism through de-radicalization in prisons."

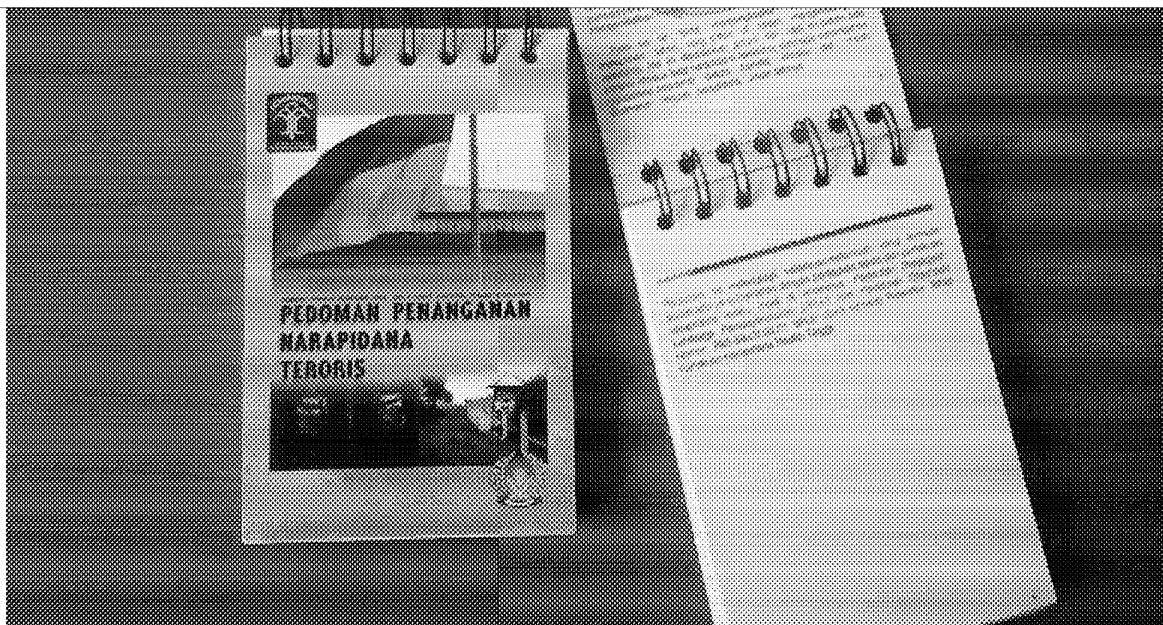
-Count Giulio Maria Terzi,
Foreign Minister of Italy, May 2012

Lake Chad Basin

Prisons in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger will absorb radicalized prisoners as a result of conflict spilling over from neighboring Nigeria. In response, CT plans to sponsor a DOJ/ICITAP project to train corrections officers at one pilot facility per country.



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