

# THE BRAVE FOCUS

Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism



Special Edition BRAVE  
Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER OF THE BRAVE MOVEMENT

July, 2018

This is a BRAVE special issue highlighting activities carried out with other partners both locally and internationally.



*Dr. Mustafa Ali (left) and Amb. Francisco Caetano Madeira, Head of AMISOM during the International Conference on Terrorism and Violent Extremism hosted by the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies. During the conference Amb. Madeira suggested to Dr Mustafa to establish BRAVE Somalia*

The following are selected activities that took place in different regions:

### 1. EAST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS HUB

This activity was organized by Global Centre on Cooperative Security and IGAD Centre of Excellence on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICPCVE). Centre for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR) was among the facilitators of this workshop that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The Global Centre invited participants from the IGAD and Horn of Africa region; i.e. Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Zanzibar and Tanzania. The aim of this workshop was to explore how the complementary initiatives can strengthen capacities and support information sharing among CSOs engaged in P/CVE in the Horn of Africa.



*A section of participants following the proceedings*



*Sh. Ramadhan Aula raising his point during the workshop*



## 2. EAST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION HUB (GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS ON COUNTERVIOLENT EXTREMISM) KENYA

As a follow up in the regional civil society organization held in Djibouti IN May 2017, the East Africa Civil Society Organizations Hub held a workshop at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi on 9th and 10th July 2018 for local grassroots PCVE organizations in Kenya. CSCR/BRAVE and Youth, Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN), as co-convenors, mobilized participants and facilitated the workshop.

This was part of the broader objective of using an online Hub (Digital HUB) to better connect with different CSOs in countering violent extremism. The workshop was sponsored by IGAD Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) and the Global Centre. The main objective was to have comprehensive discussions on local CSOs' activities, how to strengthen collaboration between government and the local P/CVE organizations.



*A group photo after the workshop in Intercontinental hotel*



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, BRAVE Steering Committee Member and co-convenor of the meeting, gives an overview of the workshop*

***“...every religion has been used to perpetrate violent in the past and Islam is not an exception.”  
Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, The need for a concerted effort in the fight against terrorism and violent terrorism.***



*Dahir Meraneh, Deputy Director IGAD P/CVE Division, Djibouti, gives the background of ICEPCVE and its mandate in the region*



*Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Program Manager - BRAVE, explains the common misuse of terminologies by terrorists*

### 3. REVIEW OF CONTENTS AND APPROACHES IN RESPONDING TO BOKO HARAM'S NARRATIVES CONFERENCE HELD IN MINNA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) convinced Nigerian scholars to develop counter-narratives to Boko Haram's narratives. These developed drafts on alternative narratives to be used for this purpose. HD involved Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism (BRAVE) in this initiative to draw from its experience in East Africa and invited them to the conference held in Minna Nigeria to review the draft documents.

BRAVE was represented by Sh. Ramadhan Aula, who is also the director, CSCR, Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, CSCR secretary General and BRAVE Reference Committee Chairman, and Dr. Othman Mujahid, CSCR member and Senior Consultant. The conference was held for five days; from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Two drafts were tabled; *Moderation in Dialogue: An Alternative Narrative from Borno* by scholars from Maiduguri and *A Critical Discourse of Boko Haram's (BH's) Ideology: Narratives and References* by Cordoba Foundation.



*A group photo at the Minna conference in Nigeria*



*A section of participants during the conference*



*Dr. Othman Mujahid (left) and Sh. Ramadhan Aula (right) pose for a photo*



*Dr. Audu Bukarti Bulama making a point*

#### 4. BRAVE Hausa Television Commercial

During the conference held in Minna, Nigeria, BRAVE shared its experiences in PCVE in the Horn of Africa. This included creation of PCVE networks, training of *ulama*, and the use of media, both social and mainstream. Through this experience sharing, the Nigerian scholars through the Cordoba Foundation developed BRAVE inspired television commercial (TVC) by the name 'My Jihad'. The TVC was produced in Hausa language.



Some of the screenshots from My Jihad Hausa clip

## 5. YALI IGAD workshop in Djibouti

CSCR was invited to a workshop on amplifying the voices of Young African Leaders in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. The workshop was organized by IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at the Chamber of Commerce Conference Centre in Djibouti. The ICEPCVE engaged the YALI alumni as partners for peace in find new ways to amplify their voices and partner with local governments, CSOs, and Community Leaders. CSCR provided consultants to train these young leaders on effective use of the media in preventing and countering violent extremism.



*Dr. Uthman Mujahid making his contribution during the meeting*



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome Making his presentation*

## 6. YOUTH IN ACTION: BUILDING POSITIVE INTER AND INTRA-GROUP RELATIONS REGIONAL FORUM

Arigatou International organized Regional Youth Forum—Nairobi from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Sagana, Kenya. The theme for the forum was **'Youth in Action: Building Positive Inter and Intra-group Relations'**. Youth leaders were invited from Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania.

The objective of the forum was to realize peaceful coexistence among communities and social groups in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region and to catalyse youth from various faith communities to take leadership action towards building peace - characterized by harmonious, just and resilient communities, and sustainable development.

A pre forum was held in Addis Ababa on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 where Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Director, CSCR, was invited to facilitate.



*Dr. Mustafa Ali giving key note address during the youth forum a point*



*Sister Maryam Kibunja making her presentation during the forum*



## 5. Protecting Child's Dignity in the Digital World

Sh. Ibrahim Lethome, BRAVE member, was invited to the conference on Protecting Child's Dignity in the Digital World in Cairo, Egypt on 4th June 2018. The conference aimed at analysing the global context of an online radicalization and violent extremism and its effects on children and youth.



*Sh. Ibrahim Lethome third from right during the meeting*

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**CSCR**  
CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

**HORN** INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE FOR  
STRATEGIC  
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