

# CSCCR

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

## THE BRAVE FOCUS

Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism



## Bimonthly Newsletter

Volume II | Issue I | Jan-Feb 2019

*“If you want peace don’t talk to your friends, talk to your enemies.”*

*~Desmond Tutu*

Building Resilience | Building Peace

# Highlights

- CSCR Board Meeting held on 17th January 2019, at the HORN International Institute Board room...Pg. 3
- After the dusitD2 terror attack, Dr. Mustafa Ali, Security Expert and Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Director HORN Institute, were interviewed by several media houses including Al-Jazeera, BBC, Citizen and CGTN...Pg. 5

# Inside This Issue

Pg. 3 2019 CSCR Board meets to evaluate programs

Pg. 5 Devastating Attack at dusitD2 Shakes Nairobians

Pg. 6 Interview Report on dusitD2 terror attack

Pg. 7 Supporting Leaders: Upcoming Program of CSCR, TBI and other partners

Pg. 9 GNRC-Kenya attends the Closing Ceremony of Together for a New Africa



# CSCR Board Meets to Evaluate Programs

By Shadiah Asindua

CSCR Board meeting was convened on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the HORN Institute's board room to evaluate the past performance of the Organization and give guidelines for the future activities. The Board members present included Dr. Mustafa Ali, Chairman; Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome, Secretary General; and Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Director. Invited guest was Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Director of HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Activities implemented in 2018 included the Sudan Clerics visit in January 2018 who shared the best practices of counter radicalization, violent extremism, and reintegration of returnees around the world and the Sudan experience. The clerics held meetings in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kajiado which involved local Muslim Clerics, women, youth, and interfaith community. The other project was the pilot training of Champions for Change (C4C) held in Nairobi and Garissa with sponsorship of Kenya ni Wajibu Wetu (NiWETU) which started in March 2018 and ended in May the same year. The project aimed at testing the newly developed training tools for CVE champions in the grassroots.

In October 2018, PACT held a meeting with CSCR to initiate the Sheikhs and Ulamaas Against Violent Extremism (SUAVE) programme. This is a Mandera Triangle Programme which will include, Suftu in Ethiopia, Belat Hawa in Somalia and Mandera in Kenya. Discussions are still ongoing to conclude the partnership.

CSCR also commemorated the Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) at Kibera Pride Children's Home in Kibera, South of Nairobi. This was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and attended by about 75 children and 41 parents from the neighborhood. The activity was sponsored by DPAC New York, and local well-wishers.

*Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta* competition, Season II was held between October and December 2018. The programme sought to promote the voices of youth in countering narratives of radicalized groups, recruitment and violent extremism through talent. This short film competition culminated with a colorful gala on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi where winners were feted. The overall winner received Ksh. 500,000.00 and a trophy. The Board also agreed on the activities to be implanted in 2019. The table below shows CSCR's programme for 2019:

*“Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta competition, Season II was held between October and December 2018. The programme sought to promote the voices of youth in countering narratives of radicalized groups, recruitment and violent extremism through talent. This short film competition culminated with a colorful gala on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi where winners were feted.”*

The following are the CSCR's 2019 activities:

No.	ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	BENEFICIARIES
1.	Trainings INVOLVE, CURVE	CSCR HORN Institute	Youth in the IGAD Region
2.	Sheikhs and Ulamaas Against Violent Extremism (SUAWE) to be held in Mander Triangle (Mandera, Suftu, and Belat Hawa	HORN Institute PACT	Mandera Clerics, Youth, and Women
3.	<i>Lenga Ugaidi na Talanta</i> (LUT) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Arigatou International CSCR, HORN Institute, Nu-Vision	Youth and Children
4.	Day of Prayer and Action (DPAC) 2019	DPAC- New York GNRC-Kenya Members Corporate	Selected children homes and schools; Youth in the Slums
5.	Supporting Leaders Kenya	CSCR, HORN Institute ACT CICC Woman Kind TBI	Religious Leaders, Men and Women
6.	End Violence in Religious Institutions	CSCR Arigatou International HORN Institute	Children in Madrasas Madrasa Teachers Parents of Madrassa children



# Devastating attack at dusitD2 shakes Nairobi

By Asia Mustafa

At least 21 people were reported to have died, about 700 evacuated and unknown others injured when *Al-Shabaab* terrorists attacked dusitD2 complex on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. International leaders including Antonnio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations and African Union Chief, Moussa Faki condemned the fatalistic attack which started at 3.00p.m with a huge explosion followed by gunshots. The injured included two university students whose hostels are adjacent to the crime scene outside the complex. This shooting alerted some security officers at the Australian Embassy nearby resulting in a shoot-out between them and the attackers before special anti-terror squad arrived shortly afterwards. Al-Shabaab attack on dusitD2 happened on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, on the day *El Adde* KDF camp was attacked in Somalia, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Anti-terror security officers arrived at the scene shortly after the shoot-out begun and detonated three live grenades. A Stockpile of grenades, rounds of ammunitions and magazines were also recovered. Several buildings and vehicles were destroyed but the special force managed to secure other buildings within the complex and evacuated hundreds of civilians. The repeated attacks since Kenya entered Somalia to fight *al-Shabaab* in 2011 in the *Operation Linda Nchi* has raised the threat level. The Kenyan Government has put in place numerous counter terrorism measures which include specialized training to its security agencies, *nyumba kumi* campaign and involving the youth in anti-radicalization efforts to counter and prevent radicalization, extremism and terrorism in Kenya.



“The repeated attacks since Kenya entered Somalia to fight *al-Shabaab* in 2011 in the *Operation Linda Nchi* has raised the threat level.”

# Interview Report on dusitD2 terror attack

By Saumu Khalfan

After the dusitD2 terror attack which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Dr. Mustafa Ali and Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Director HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, were interviewed by several media houses including Al-Jazeera, BBC, Citizen and CGTN for expert opinion on the incident. The subject matter of the interviews was broken down into five issues.

## 1. Motive behind the attack

It was said that the motive of al Shabaab behind dusitD2 attack was:

- ✓ To mark the third anniversary of *El Adde* where they attacked a Kenyan camp in Somalia.
- ✓ To basically announce that they are still there, they are relevant since it is a group that has been on its back foot, overwhelmed and has been losing ground in Somalia hence they wanted to make a point that they are still relevant.

## 2. Al-Shabaab's strategy

One of their strategies was to recruit from the region and troop contributing countries. I.e. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, so as to create home grown terror problem from the region.

## 3. Kenya's security preparedness

- ✓ The security agencies have been on high alert and also demonstrated the effectiveness and professionalism in counter-terrorism.
- ✓ Having learnt from experience, security agencies have put up a proper and coordinated response compared to 2013 during the West Gate attack.

## 4. Reasons why al-Shabaab attack Kenya?

Al-Shabaab attack Kenya because of its geo-strategic location, Kenya hosts a number of expatriates and international agencies, and part of the reasons or the planning of the terrorist attacks is to have maximum impact. The attack was also to communicate maximum messaging when it comes to international to show that they are still relevant even though they are actually on their death bed.

## 5. Ethnic profiling

Overtime, ethnic profiling has been the major issue after terror attacks in Kenya, and to heal this nation will require that every citizen undergoes a change of mindset especially in their understanding of other ethnic groups.

It is unfortunate when the more exposed, educated and sophisticated Kenyans on the internet and around us resort to unsubstantiated accusations against Muslims and Somalis, many of whom are bona fide Kenyans. Kenyans need to stop stereotyping and ethnic labelling because just like them, the Muslims and Somalis hate the arrogance and cowardice of al-Shabaab, and they aspire for a safe and prosperous country.



# Supporting Leaders Kenya: Upcoming Program of CSCR, TBI and other partners



*A group photo during the TBI Supporting Leaders Kenya Workshop*

*By Sh. Ramadhan Aula*

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) visited CSCR offices to explore possible ways of collaboration and partnership with BRAVE in implementing Supporting Leaders Kenya Programme. This included familiarization with BRAVE activities, what it does and its objectives.

Cleo Blackman, Director of Programmes of TBI explained their work and purpose. She mentioned their areas of work, programmes, pilot projects, the impact they have had so far and the countries they have worked with.

Christopher Rider, Senior Project Manager of TBI expounded on some of their work which include an interfaith CVE programme held in Nigeria where sixty Christian and Muslim religious leaders were selected for this purpose. A manual for this programme was developed whereby six modules aimed at addressing Muslim leaders issues centering on narratives and counter narratives, and the 7<sup>th</sup> module was for the Christian leaders. These religious leaders were all selected from the same geographical area for maximum impact. TBI built capacities of organizations to train the locals and these trainings ranged from step down trainings to local programmes. He added that they wanted to share their experiences from Nigeria with CSCR/BRAVE in order to forge a partnership in implementing Supporting Leaders Kenya Programme. The objectives of the programme are to:

- ✓ Empower religious leaders, both men and women, on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
- ✓ Reach the at risk communities of being drawn into extremism
- ✓ Demonstrate effectiveness of Inter-Religious Action (IRA)
- ✓ Build organisational capacity
- ✓ Deliver impact at community level
- ✓ Include an integrated transition/sustainability strategy
- ✓ Supporting Leaders Kenya aim at creating effective inter-religious network of Christian and Muslim leaders who are actively contributing to changing attitudes towards the other in their communities, reducing incidents of inter-religious violence and building the mutual respect and understanding on which localized social cohesion depends.

The project will test the proposition that inter-religious action led by a combination of established (mentor) and emerging (mentee) male and female religious leaders improves social cohesion across selected mixed-faith communities and builds resilience to extremist narratives. TBI organized Project Design Workshop I and II to design a work plan of Supporting Leaders Kenya programme.

The workshops sought to co-design with selected in-country partners a tailored multi-year support project for community and religious leaders and also agree in forming a consortium for implementation. Invited organizations were: HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, UN Women, Woman Kind, Act Change Transform (ACT), Center for Sustainable Conflict Resolution (CSCR), HURIA (Human Rights Agenda), and Coast Inter-faith Council of Clerics (CICC).

The members representing these organizations formed the core team of the Community Delivery Group (CDG) which co-designed criteria to help select the communities in which the project can add the most value.



“Supporting leaders Kenya aim at creating an effective inter-religious network of Christian and Muslim leaders who are actively contributing to changing attitudes towards the other...”



# The Closing Ceremony of Together for a New Africa Project

By Sh. Ramadhan Aula

The Global Network of Religions for Children, Kenya chapter (GNRC-Kenya) was represented at the closing ceremony of Together for a New Africa Project that was held at Mariapolis Piero, Juja, Kiambu County, Kenya on 8th January 2019. Sh. Ramadhan Aula, Director, CSCR, and GNRC Country Coordinator was present during this event which was the end of the first phase of the three-year project intended to end in 2021.

The Focolare Movement in partnership with International Association of New Humanity, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO together with other partners organized a training of 105 youth from Eastern Africa and DR Congo aiming at empowering young people with knowledge, skills and mindset to spur positive and constructive change in the communities they live in. The training on transformative leadership, values and responsibility was held from the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and attended by participants, both male and female, from Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo.

The direct target audience were African students aged between 20 and 35 years already involved in leadership who will in turn reach 1000 youth in their local communities. The trainers were drawn from Italy and the respective countries where participants came from.

Diplomatic Corps, notably the Embassies of Chile, Cameroon and Italy, and representative of Kenya Commission for UNESCO and GNRC-Kenya Coordinator.



*Sh. Ramadhan Aula introducing GNRC and the ten Panama commitments*



*Standing, trainers during the leadership training from Congo, Italy and Kenya*



# BRAVE

Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism



**HORN** INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE FOR  
STRATEGIC  
STUDIES  
OBJECTIVE • INDEPENDENT • DEFINITIVE



50, Riverside Drive, P.O.Box 27687 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: +254722763794

[info@braveprogram.org](mailto:info@braveprogram.org)