Executions loom for Bali bombers
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Secrecy surrounds the planned executions of three Bali bombers, with their lawyers saying they will likely know nothing until after the men are dead.

The Islamic militants behind the 2002 bombings are in isolation on death row as their executions on the prison island loom.

Other inmates at the maximum security prison block have been transferred to other nearby prisons to prevent any rioting.

Defence lawyer Wirawan Adnan said the legal team had not had any contact with Mukhlas, his brother Amrozi, and Imam Samudra since last week when they visited the prison with Mukhlas' family.

"I don't think the attorney-general's office will give us the luxury of that information because we believe it will be done secretly," Wirawan said.

"They know that our attitude will be that the public has the right to know, and any information given to us will be publicised."

He said it was possible that the terrorists had already been given a mandatory 72-hour notice advising that their executions would be carried out. There is no legal requirement for lawyers to be informed.

"We have no way of knowing if they do the executions," he said.

Indonesian authorities remain tight-lipped about the timing of the bombers' deaths by firing squad on Nusakambangan Island, in Central Java.

But it could happen anytime after midnight. Authorities have said only that the executions will be carried out in "early November".

Bali prosecutors who will oversee the executions have arrived on Nusakambangan Island.

"Within the next 10 days they will be executed, it could be any moment now," said terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna, of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore.

He called on Indonesian political and religious leaders to brand the three "deviants of Islam" to reduce the impact of their repeated calls for others to avenge their deaths.

New letters penned by the bombers are circulating on the internet, calling for revenge attacks against those responsible for their executions.

"It's important for the Indonesian government to state categorically that the Bali bombers do not represent Islam, that the Bali bombers are heretics and are deviants of Islam," Gunaratna told AAP.

"To reduce the impact of the statements of the Bali bombers, it is so important for the Indonesian religious leaders to condemn the Bali bombers and their acts as unIslamic.

"Unless the Indonesian government (and religious leaders) do that, it will send the wrong message to a small group of Muslims in Indonesia."
Security is tight on Nusakambangan and the closest town of Cilacap ahead of the executions.

More police vehicles on Friday were ferried to the island from Cilacap, where a large media contingent is waiting for news.

It appeared to be business as usual for customary Friday prayers at the prison, although head of Cilacap Islamic Clerics’ Council (MUI) Hasan Makarim would not confirm if the bombers were in his congregation.

"I was only preaching, I didn't get close to them," he told reporters in Cilacap.

Police have also boosted security in the villages where the three men were born, and will be buried, in east and west Java.

Experts said a terrorist attack to avenge the bombers' executions was unlikely, but warned lower-level unrest could break out when their bodies are returned to their villages.

"I think that the likelihood of a successful retaliatory attack of a terrorist nature is fairly low," the International Crisis Group’s Sidney Jones said.

She said she did not doubt there were groups who would like to exact revenge, but believed any plot would be uncovered by Indonesian security forces.

However she warned that when the bodies are returned home "there is a likelihood that you get a large concentration of very angry supporters of the Bali bombers who could go on a rampage”.

Police were "well aware of the possibilities of an emotional reaction at that time" and would try to pre-empt it, she said.

The Australian National University’s Greg Fealy, an expert on Islamic politics and radical groups in Indonesia, agreed and said most Muslims in the country had very little sympathy for the three bombers.

"They will not be particularly mourning their executions," he said.

"The only problem will come with that very small number of people in the extremist fringe in Indonesia, committed jihadists. And these people will regard this as an act that should be avenged."

It was possible some unrest could surround the burials.

"But I don't think you're talking about a large number of people here, and the security services have already got much tighter security" in the bombers' home provinces, he said.

A brother of two of the Bali bombers says he is proud of them as they prepare to face the firing squad over the terrorist attacks which killed 202 people.

Ali Fauzi, the younger brother of convicted terrorists Amrozi and Mukhlas, also said he was sure they were on the "right path" in their final days, after authorities said the stage was set for their executions.

"I met both of them last month and they told me 'don't be sad'. They always look so happy and I'm sure they're fighting on the right path," Fauzi told AFP in an interview at his home village in East Java.

Looking relaxed and smiling broadly like his older brother Amrozi, who is known as the "smiling assassin" for the beaming grin he sported throughout his trial, Fauzi said the family had nothing to be ashamed about.

"Do we feel embarrassed or ashamed of what they have done? No, we feel proud because in this world full of lies and accusations there are still people who are ready to fight against that," he said.

Fauzi spoke candidly in a room at the Islamic boarding school where he teaches Koranic studies to boys and girls from around the district.
At no point did he express regret for the carnage unleashed by his brothers on October 12, 2002, when bombs they had made and planted tore through packed tourist nightspots on the resort island of Bali.

More than 160 foreign holidaymakers including 88 Australians were killed in the blasts, one of the worst terrorist atrocities in the world since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Another brother, Ali Imron, is serving a life sentence for his role in the plot.

As his mother toiled in the maize fields that surround the simple coastal village of about 3,000 people, Fauzi said the family had made no plans for the funeral.

"If they're executed we'll bring them back home and conduct prayers. Then we'll bury them at a site which we can't tell you about," he said.

"We don't want any autopsy because although the soul is no longer there the body can still feel pain."

He predicted some "reaction" from the bombers' supporters but insisted the family could not be held responsible "if they want to fight or destroy something."

"Of course we hope that nothing like that will happen," he added.

Neighbours in the village, dotted with mosques and wooden houses and surrounded by lush green maize and rice fields, expressed little sympathy for Amrozi and Mukhlas.

There were no signs of public support or opposition to the executions, as residents tended the fields under conical hats or strolled through town in traditional batiks and sarongs ahead of Friday prayers.

"They should be executed because all of us should be peaceful toward one another," said Sulastri, a neighbour.

"I'd feel scared if there was a bombing in this village and I wouldn't want that to happen here."

Shop owner Mahfud Hasan said he had known Amrozi since they were children.

"I didn't believe it until I saw him confess on TV and I was so shocked," he said.

Students at the Islamic school said they were banned from reading newspapers, watching television and listening to the radio so they knew nothing about the imminent executions.

But they were hungry for news.

"I feel sad that they're being executed because they're Muslims like me, so I sympathise with them," said 20-year-old student Mohammad.