Death 'soon' for Bali Bombers

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities gave no word yesterday about the impending executions of three Bali bombers.

Speculation was rife that the three Islamic militants behind the 2002 bombings that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, could have been executed as early as yesterday.

But with the executions expected to take place between midnight and dawn, it appeared the bombers -- Mukhlas, his brother Amrozi, and Imam Samudra -- will not face the firing squad until today at the earliest.

Authorities have remained tightlipped about the timing of the executions on Nusakambangan Island, in Central Java, saying only that they would be carried out in "early November".

Indonesia's Attorney-General Hendarman Supandji on Friday confirmed the executions would happen between November 1 and November 15.

Security is tight on Nusakambangan and the closest town of Cilacap ahead of the executions. Bali prosecutors who will oversee the executions have arrived on the island.

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

"Within the next 10 days they will be executed," said terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna. He called on Indonesian leaders to brand the three "deviants of Islam" to reduce the impact of their calls for others to avenge their deaths.