Update on terrorist raids expected

Foreign authorities are closely following updates on Saturday's raids on terrorist safe houses, which targeted Indonesia's most wanted man, Noordin M. Top.

The raids included a siege on a house in Temanggung, Central Java, in which the police killed a man believed to be Noordin.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Sunday that he would speak with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to get the latest developments.

"It is still unclear as to who precisely has been killed and who has been apprehended," Rudd said, as quoted by the Australian Associated Press.

Rudd said that he has yet to see all of the information from the Indonesian authorities and was reluctant to comment on speculation that the July 17 bombings were revenge attacks for the execution of the Bali bombers.

"Obviously terrorists are going to be motivated by a range of factors," he said.

"The key thing is that our cooperation with the Indonesians remains strong, robust, comprehensive and that every action is taken to crack down on those responsible for terrorist acts so far, and those who are still engaged in terrorist activities today."

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that his country was concerned about the case.

Muhyidin said Malaysia had been perceived as a breeding ground for terrorists as Noordin is a Malaysian national. He however told Bernama news agency that this was untrue, as Malaysia had been a democratic and peaceful country for a long time.

He said Kuala Lumpur always worked closely with Jakarta to tackle terrorism.

Following Saturday's siege, the police are working to identify the body of the man believed to be Noordin.

However, Rohan Gunaratna, head of the Singapore-based International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, has said the body was not Noordin's.

"He's not yet dead, in fact DNA tests prove that the body that was recovered was not Noordin," Gunaratna told Al-Jazeera soon after the body was taken to Jakarta.

"But it is very likely that he will be hunted down in the next few days," Gunaratna added, citing police sources.
Meanwhile, Sidney Jones, from the International Crisis Group, said that police seemed to be convinced that Noordin was inside the building during the siege.

"Their confidence was quite high until they found the body," she told Al-Jazeera from Jakarta.

"Then it became increasingly clear that it might not be Noordin after all." (mrs)