May was another relatively quiet month, but civilian deaths and injuries increased significantly due to a number of incidents of regional violence. Police were also responsible for shooting five people in response to one incident in Papua. However, they were able to pursue information related to terrorist incidents that occurred last year, and arrested 20 suspects.

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* CT – Counterterrorist Incident, T – Terrorist incident, LEA – Law Enforcement Agency, Mil – Militant, Civ – Civilian

Number of Incidents

Terrorism:
14 terrorist suspects reportedly connected to the suicide bombing of a church in Solo, Central Java on 25 September 2011 have been arrested by anti-terrorism officers across Indonesia in the first two weeks of May. Police arrested seven suspected terrorists in Central Jakarta on 3 May, four in North Sumatra on 4 May, another in South Sumatra on 5 May and two more in Surakarta, Central Java on 11 May. Police also seized firearms and other weapons.  

Following the arrests, five have been officially named suspects. The five are Rizki Gunawan, Dedi Irawan, Andre Kurniawan, Sidik and Agus Supriyanto. Rizki, who is believed to have been trained in bomb and firearm assembly in Poso, Central Sulawesi, was caught on May 3 at Gambir train station in Jakarta. He was also suspected to have provided Rp 225 million (US$24,224) to terrorists to purchase firearms for training purposes and the bombing of the Sepenuh Injil Bethel Church (GBIS) in Surakarta on 25 September 2011. Rizki stole the money by hacking into a multi-level marketing website named “Investasi Online”. The money was used to buy firearms and to participate in paramilitary training in Poso and Malino, Central Sulawesi. Rizky started his paramilitary training in early 2011, and was allegedly trained by the fugitive terrorist Santoso (alias Abu Wardah) in Central Sulawesi. He is said to be skillful in making bombs and firearms. Densus 88 detained Andre, Dedi and Sidik in Medan, North Sumatra, on May 4. The three are suspected to have assisted Rizki in preparing the attack. Agus was apprehended in Palembang on May 5. He is suspected of having participated in a military training camp together with slain Bali bomb terrorist Dulfatim and terrorist convict Abu Tholut.  

Three bombs exploded in separate locations in Masohi, on Maluku’s Seram island early Thursday 17 May 2012, but police said there were no fatalities. One explosion took place near the district hall, one near the district legislative council building while the third occurred near the house of the head of the local Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) legislative faction. Preliminary investigation indicated that the home-made bombs made from sulphur, nails and beer bottles caused the explosions. The bombings are believed to be linked to local district elections scheduled for 23 May, which are a run-off of an earlier election on 4 April. Six candidates were originally vying for the position of district chief and deputy district chief. None of the candidates managed to garner over 30 percent of the vote in April, making a run-off necessary between the top two pairs, Tuasikal Abua and Marlatu Leleury, who are being backed by the PKS, and Jusuf Latuconsina and Liliany Aitonan, who are backed by the Democratic Party.  

On Monday 21 May 2012 police in Maluku announced that they had arrested six individuals suspected of being involved in bombing incidents in Ambon. The 6 suspects have been identified as BM, RM, SS, HTM, AW, and HS. The group is allegedly responsible for a number of incidents, including the bombing of Mardika terminal, Ambon, on 24 September 2011; the

bombing of Anugerah Karang Panjang Church on 26 September 2011; the bombings on Jl. Tulukabessy, Ambon, on 28 September 2011 and the bombings in the area of Belakang Soya on 21 November 2011. The six suspects were arrested following a police investigation that led to the arrest of BM in Tanjung Priok, Jakarta, by police officers in Maluku on 17 May 2012. With these arrests police continue to send strong messages that they will not allow acts of terrorism or religious violence to go unnoticed, especially in regions prone to communal violence.

Regional Violence

The regional areas of Indonesia, particularly Papua, Ambon and Aceh, which have quite distinct local identities, have historically been more prone to conflict and violence. Remnants of this violence continue to be seen today, particularly as regional elections near. The targets of this violence are often Indonesian police (as in Papua this week), local politicians (as in Aceh) or particular ethnic/religious groups (as in Ambon).

Aceh:
Aceh Party politician Syukri Abdullah, 36, and his female business colleague, Cut Yeti, 39, were shot dead at midnight on 15 May 2012 as they were driving through the district of Bireuen to their respective homes in the neighboring province of Lhokseumawe. Yeti’s nephew, T. Muhammad Yasir, 16, also sustained minor injuries. Syukri was a secretary to the party’s Lhokseumawe branch, and the commander of the Lhokseumawe branch of the Aceh Transitional Committee, the body set up to accommodate former members of the now-defunct rebel group Free Aceh Movement (GAM) — the local Aceh Party was formed by former GAM guerillas. The motive is unclear.

Papua:
Police from the mobile brigade unit (Brimob) reportedly shot five civilians in Paniai, Papua on Tuesday evening, 15 May 2012. The most likely report has one victim, Melianus Kegepe, as dead and four critically injured. The four include Lukas Kegepe, Amos Kegepe and Alpius Kegepe with the final man yet to be identified. Another has only four men shot, but all deceased. The shooting took place during a brawl between the five men and three Brimob officers at a billiard-hall near a traditional gold mining site in Nomowodide village, Paniai. Police believe the incident was planned to provoke the officers.

A motorcycle taxi driver was shot dead by an unknown person on Thursday 17 May 2012 in Mulia, the restive capital of Papua district Puncak Jaya. The victim was identified as Arkilaus Refwutu. The shooting was the latest violent incident to hit Mulia. Police were dispatched to find

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the perpetrator/s, but instead found three other civilians who had also been shot. The injured people have been identified as Tarinus Tabuni, 17, a high school student who was grazed in the head by a ricochet; Teringgen Murib, 55, a farmer who was shot in the leg; and Yuniter Murib, 20, another farmer who was shot in the leg and grazed in the arm by a bullet’s ricochet. There have been at least six cases of shootings against civilians and security personnel this year, leaving six people dead. Police believe that this attack was likely perpetrated by members of the separatist Free Papua Organization (OPM), a militant group that has been waging a decades-long, low-level insurgency in the province.

On Tuesday 22 May 2012 a black Toyota Avanza exploded in Jayapura, Papua, without warning, killing the vehicle's sole passenger. The car had been driven to a cemetery. A witness called the police, and when authorities tried to approach the vehicle it exploded a second time. Police later identified the passenger, a man, as Syaiful Bahri, 24, who worked as a driver in the Jayapura area in Papua. They are unsure of the cause of the explosion.

A German tourist, Dietmar Pieper, 55, was visiting Base G beach with his wife Eva Medina, 55, when an unidentified assailant opened fire and shot him three times at 11:30 a.m. on 29 May 2012 and then sped off in a Toyota Avanza minivan. He is in a stable condition in ICU. Police are investigating the shooting but are unsure of the motive.

On the same day, a man also shot and killed a teacher at his kiosk in Kurilik village in Mulia, the restive district of Puncak Jaya.

The assailant approached the kiosk owned and operated by 36-year-old Anton Arung Tambila — who was also a teacher at a primary school — when he suddenly drew a gun and shot Anton in the head, killing him. The perpetrator fled into the jungle. Police are investigating.

A joint team of military soldiers and police officers on Tuesday arrested two members of the Free Papua Organization (OPM) in a raid on OPM headquarters in a forest located near Kampung Wadapi, Angkaisera district, Yapen, Papua.

The OPM members arrested were Tedi John Muntia and Yan Aroi.

The team also confiscated several items including a Morning Star flag, an outlawed separatist

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symbol, and weapons.

Before the raid, police received information that there was suspicious activity in a forest located 400 meters from Kampung Wadapi. The patrol team went to the location and found a base camp in an area of 1000 square meters, consisting of a field with makeshift tents.

They dismantled the tents and other facilities, and ambushed two houses located near the base camp and found firearms, motorcycles, ammunition and spears.

OPM members have been blamed by police for several mysterious shootings in the restive area.13

Maluku:
At least 51 people were injured from fragments and burns in a bomb explosion and dozens of vehicles and houses were set ablaze in a riot that broke out in Ambon during a torchlight parade to commemorate the anniversary of Ambonese hero Thomas "Pattimura" Matulessy on Tuesday 15 May 2012.14 Police have arrested five people allegedly linked to the incident, but do not know who threw the bomb yet.15

On Thursday 24 May 2012 a mob attacked the president’s son’s entourage incident in North Maluku. Edhie Baskoro Yudhoyono alias Ibas, the secretary general of the Democratic Party, arrived in Ternate with some senior party members, including chairman Anas Urbaningrum. A mob attacked them during an executive board meeting to select a new provincial party chairman. They were not injured. The mob allegedly consisted of supporters of North Maluku Governor Thaib Armayn, the party’s current North Maluku chairman. The mob was angry over the central board’s decision to appoint their own committee for the chairman election, given that the regional board had already formed a committee, and were concerned the move might jeopardize Thaib’s chances to remain in his position. On Friday 25 May 2012 police arrested one suspect who was among the mob that tried to attack the president’s son. His initials are DBK or D. Police are searching for other suspects.16

Comparative Analysis

May was almost as quiet as April in terms of number of incidents, but saw a significant increase in the number of deaths and injuries, all of which were due to regional violence rather than terrorism.

While police were able to arrest 20 suspected terrorists this month, they were unable to arrest any more than 3 suspected perpetrators of regional violence.

Despite their quick and efficient response to acts of terrorism, Indonesian authorities still continue to struggle with regional violence, which often stems from perceived political, economic, social or religious injustice. This is largely due to their inability to address key grievances in the problematic regions, which often concern aspects of central government policy and are thus not readily acknowledged, let alone addressed, by the Indonesian government.

On news of the use of hacking a multi-level marketing system to fund terrorism in Indonesia would seem to be the first instance to date, though it is surprising that such systems have not
been used more extensively, as they are easy enough to establish and expand, either as legitimate or fraudulent systems.