



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH

A Centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Monthly Informatics Report

Developments in the Bahasa Indonesian Websites

February 2011

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of significant developments and trends of the online extremist websites and communities during the month of February 2011. For the purpose of this report, Islamist extremist online sites refer to those propagating violence, or have members affiliated to terrorist organizations.

Summary of Significant Developments

- Guides on tactical warfare and bomb making gathered from Western sources were observed in the Bahasa Indonesia online sites in February 2011.
- Two '*Sabili*' magazine edition 13 and 14 were published and advertised, signifying the continuous use of cyberspace as platform of advertisement for Islamist extremists in Indonesia.
- Online propaganda materials from the online Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremists contest news from the mainstream media on the reporting of violence in Temanggung after the trial of Antonius Richmond Bawengan.
- Support for Abu Bakar Bashir is unyielding and his innocence is reiterated vis-à-vis the portrayal of a malevolent Indonesian government repressing those who call for the truth to Islam.

Explanation of Sources

Bahasa Indonesia Websites

The Bahasa Indonesia sites which have been selected for monitoring have been evaluated and determined to represent important nodes of discussion and information exchange for Islamists in Indonesia and the neighboring region. This web presence is considerably smaller compared to the Arabic websites, and has a local focus on Indonesia or nearby countries. Some of these sites have an element of interactivity, whereby members may contribute to content. Unlike the Arabic sites where there is more user input, content on most regional sites is controlled by an administrator or a group of administrators.

This report will cover three key extremist and radical websites – arrahmah.com, muslimdaily.net and al-tawbah.com. Arrahmah.com and muslimdaily.net are run by and associated with high-profile Islamic extremist figures of the region. The former is owned and managed by Mohamed Jibril, son of Abu Jibriel - one of the key founders of Jemaah Islamiyah and current emir of Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia. Mohamed Jibril was also recently arrested for allegedly funding the July 2009 twin hotel bombings in Jakarta through links with Al-Qaeda. The latter is managed by the son of Abu Bakar Basyir, the former spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, former emir of Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia as well as current head of Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid. Al-tawbah.com or Forum Islam Al Tawbah is a password protected website that is among the most active in the region. This website is regularly updated with potentially dangerous materials such as motivation on jihad, videos of operations and bomb making manuals, cyber warfare manuals, combat training manuals and others. As part of a more holistic approach in analyzing online extremist activity, the report will also include extremist blogs and personal/group websites that do not have the same high traffic volume as the main sites listed above but contain useful information nonetheless.

**Full URL of sources gathered will not be disclosed in this report.*

User Statistics

Featured below is the percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country. The main objective of featuring this information on a monthly basis is to capture the country distribution of the visitors for each website. The monitoring of trends over a few months could shed light on the different reasons for which the website is being viewed. This is especially so when done in comparison to events and occurrence for that month. This analysis would then shed light on whether mainstream reporting could underscore the website's presence in the global Islamist extremist community.

The data presented is for the top countries from which visits originate. They are gathered from alexa.com.¹ Data is available only for select websites and is extrapolated from a sample of traffic captured from the website. The true geographical locations of users employing proxy servers may not be represented accurately. Data in this instance represents traffic to the site on 27th February 2011. The following online sites² have been chosen because of the bulk of articles selected from them for this report. We acknowledge that the tool used to gather these statistics bear weaknesses, but it is thus far the best tool detected for the gathering of the little nonetheless useful information reflected in this section.

arrahmah.com

Arrahmah media

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:

Indonesia: 67.2%
India: 10.7%
United States: 1.5%
Philippines: 3.1%
Other: 10.6%

¹ www.alexa.com is a comprehensive web information company that provides traffic data and rankings for websites.

² There is no information available on the percentage of site's total visitor access from al-tawbah.com

muslimdaily.net

Muslim Daily

Percentage of a site's total visitor access from a given country:



Guides for Tactical Warfare and Assembling a Bombing

A new member of a Bahasa extremist forum posted some links on several English materials on physical *i'dad* (jihad preparation) to download. The materials do not originate from Al Qaeda sources but from non-affiliated Western sources. Last month, a forum member posted URLs for download on tactical warfare from the books titled “Total Resistance – Swiss Army Guide to Guerilla Warfare and Underground Operations; “Getaway – Driving Techniques for Escape and Evasion”; Disguise Techniques – Fool All of the People Some of the Time. “Running a Ring of Spies”; Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA’s Spys, from Communism to Al-Qaeda; “Booby Traps” (a manual of the U.S. Army published in 1965). Those threads are viewed by around 20-40 people. The thread which is viewed the most is the intelligence material “Running a Ring of Spies”, which is viewed by 42 forum members. However, none or only a few people reply to the thread, mostly said gratitude to the sender, and few asked the details on the downloading process. The thread that garnered most reply is booby traps topic, with 4 replies.

The most-viewed thread in this forum with regards to the manuals is on the topic of how to make a bomb from your mum’s kitchen, posted by *penyabarilmu*. It garners 144 views and 6 replies despite it was posted since January 2010. It is unclear whether this person is the same person running a jihadi blog <http://penyabarilmu.wordpress.com/> which is now no longer available. “Penyabarilmu” posted the content of “make a bomb in the kitchen of your mum”,

which is taken from the Bahasa version of the Al-Qaeda magazine, INSPIRE, first edition, in the body of the forum. The INSPIRE edition 1 of the Bahasa version has been available since November 2010. The posting revealed some of the uniqueness of this bomb, stating that the materials are easily available; buying these materials will not cause suspicion; easy to secure if the enemy raids the house; and the trained dogs are not trained to trace this kind of explosives. Within one or two days, the bombs are ready for use. This bomb could kill dozens of people. Within the next few weeks or months, one will be able to assemble a bigger bomb. “Penyebarilmu” also gave the link to download. Participants are thankful and pray for the success of the Indonesian mujahideen to collect weapons, ammunition, explosives, and booby traps. A participant replied to the post and urged forum members to not over contemplate on the consequences of their operation if they were to utilize the manual. Another forum member asked for details on how to assemble an AK-47. However, there were no replies to this posting.

There are several reasons that may explain why the bombing tradecraft is more viewed than that of other tactical warfare. First, the documents are in Bahasa, and the content was posted in the main message of the body. A forum member suggested putting the documents in Bahasa only instead, which suggests that English tradecraft documents are only useful to English-literate forum members. There is a possibility that forum members who thanked those who posted the URL for download are English literate. Second, the bomb assembling manual is posted in the main body of the forum, which reduced the hassle of downloading.

Sabili Edition 13 and 14

The Bahasa Indonesia online sites are observed to be continuously utilized as an advertising platform to promote Islamist extremist publications. In one of the online sites which contained this, articles advertising the *Sabili* 13 and 14 were released 17 days apart, on 4th and 21st February 2011 respectively. The *Sabili* is a magazine circulated offline but is occasionally advertised online. Its contents are Islamist extremist in nature. The articles gave short descriptions of the different sections available in the magazine, and end with good advertising statements which strives to lure the readers into buying the magazine, “Find the answers in the “*Indonesia Kita* (Our Indonesia)” rubric. Elaboration on these articles is in the following.



The advertising article on *Sabili* edition 13 describes the contents of 4 sections of the magazine; *Telaah Utama* (Main Research); *Wawancara Khusus* (Special Interview); *Alam Islami* (Islamic World) and *Indonesia Kita* (Our Indonesia). Based on this description, the contents of this *Sabili* show negative sentiments towards secularism and portray all religions and beliefs except that of their version of Islam as demeaning to the latter. It condemns the preservation and practice of the 150 local Indonesia cultures and beliefs that is termed as ‘local wisdom’ by liberals, and suggests capital punishment on Antonius Richmond Bawengan for his blasphemy case in Temanggung. Bawengan, much to the disappointment of Islamist extremists in Indonesia was sentenced to 5 years in prison for spreading anti-Islam messages in Temanggung. Apart from this, ‘*Sabili*’ also shows interests on the developments in Egypt, and raises concern over the future of the Palestinian-Israel conflict should Mubarak lose power.



Sabili edition 14 continues to widen the perceived gap between *Sabili*'s authors' version of Islam and all other beliefs including that of Ahmadiyah's. Similar to the first article, this feature advertisement also gives descriptions of the *Telaah Utama* (Main Research); *Alam Islami*

(Islamic World) and *Indonesia Kita* (Our Indonesia) sections of the book. A continuation of the 13th edition, *Sabili* edition 14 is described to contain a continued analysis on Egypt after the fall of Mubarak. Apart from that, it also bears the reiteration on the repression on Islam by other beliefs by highlighting once again the blasphemy case in Temanggung. An additional issue discussed in this edition is that on Abu Bakar Ba'asyir's trial which is portrayed as yet another example signifying an Indonesia government against Islam.

Correcting News on Violence in Temanggung

Online propaganda materials from the Islamist extremists contest news from the mainstream media on the reporting of violence in Temanggung after the trial of Antonius Richmond Bawengan. These materials in the form of news articles state clearly their objective of "correcting news from the media" on this fateful incident. Among them are the release of a 'White Paper on the Temanggung Riot' and an article reporting of its release. These materials insist that the mainstream media has manipulated the news story and reported on radical Muslims turning violent in opposition to the 5-year imprisonment verdict given to Bawengan. The truth according to them shows a maligned Muslim community who were indeed the real victims of the situation.

The White Paper which was drawn up by the *Forum Umat Islam Bersatu* (United Muslim Forum) (FUIB) lists the trail of events on 8 February 2011 which saw violence break out during the trial of Bawengan, followed by the burning of 3 churches by protestors.³ According to the paper, violence was clearly not carried out by the Muslims at the spur of the moment, but by unknown perpetrators who had planned in triggering such clashes much earlier. Muslims present during the trial on the other hand, were described by the paper to be the ones being beaten and lambasted with crude words on that day. It highlights that the Muslim crowd which had been cleared of any weapons and dangerous items before entrance to the courtroom was attacked by the Indonesian police, not just with tear gas, but with crude words. According to the paper, the police, amidst the commotion had referred to the Muslims present as "these people are pigs, dogs and are all PKI. Just kill them!" Also, it explains that the burning of churches was not conducted by Muslims but by unknown people who had been placed inside the churches even before the violence there started. Lastly, the White paper which also laments on the verdict of Bawengan blasphemy case which is considered light and serves no justice to the Muslim community in Indonesia also suggests on the creation of an advocacy team, TANGKIS (Advocation Team and Defence against Insults on Islam).

³ 'Another Religious Based Attack 3 Churches Burnt' *Jakarta Updates*. <http://www.jakartaupdates.com/1024-02/another-religious-based-attack-3-churches-burnt>. 2 February 2011.

Indonesia Government Condemned Over Abu Bakar Bashir's Trial



Support for Abu Bakar Bashir is unyielding and his innocence is reiterated via the portrayal of a malevolent Indonesia government repressing those who call for the truth to Islam. This was the perspective of the online Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist community on the ongoing trial of their revered leader Abu Bakar Bashir whom they regard as a respected cleric and leader of Islam free from all allegations of terrorism. This was observed through a myriad of articles splashed throughout different online sites, from the popular ones to individual blogs.

Articles on news updates of his trial lament on the lack of space given to Abu Bakar Bashir's supporters due to the presence of 'mysterious' intelligence officers who filled up the first three rows of the courtroom. Apart from that, the trial was also deemed to have been called abruptly. In this regard the Indonesia court was condemned and said to have treated the trial in a trivial manner. Apart from these news updates, commentaries were also observed especially in the website created especially for the support of Abu Bakar Bashir Freeabb.com. Here, the popularity of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was predicted to dip especially with its repression against Abu Bakar Bashir and increase in electricity charges.

Impact of this trial is not just seen online. Developments in reality too were observed in this regard. On the 10th of February 2011, Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid launched a Media Centre at the MER-C Office. This Media centre aims at not just monitoring the developments on Abu Bakar Bashir, but also at uniting all '*media-media Islam* (Islam Media)' in the continuous battle of information.