



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 Indonesia Online Sites

June 2011

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of significant developments and trends of the online extremist websites and communities during the month of June 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

- Links to download a video titled “IED is More Effective” is posted in a Bahasa extremist forum.
- A three-part video weaponry manual highlights the Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community’s continued interests on guns and AK-47.
- A series of papers on the topics of urban warfare and combat skills in Bahasa Indonesia were posted, adding on to more literature on the topic which has been heavily discussed on over the past three months.
- The Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community accepts Ayman az-Zawahiri as the new leader of Al Qaeda.
- Stories of lone wolves are used as motivation for others to conduct individual acts of violence.

- Abu Bakar Bashir's sentence to 15 years imprisonment was used to portray a malevolent Indonesian government repressing Abu Bakar Bashir and his organisation Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT).

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 June 2011. The following online sites 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: 90.6%
Philippines: 1.6%
Bangladesh: 1.6%
Germany: 1.3%
Malaysia: 1.1%
Other: 3.9%

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

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



Videos on IED (Improved Explosive Device) Manual and Phone Detonator

Links to download a video titled “IED is More Effective” was posted in a Bahasa extremist forum. The 52.42-minute video was produced by *Daulah Islam Iraq* (The Islamic State of Iraq). At-Tawbah edited the video and added subtitles in Bahasa. ICPVTR has seen some images of the video with unclear instructions in the same forum in May 2011. In addition, as mentioned in the May 2011 ICPVTR informatics report, at least one forum member already possessed the original video without Bahasa subtitles. The video described IED as the most effective tool to defeat infidels and *thaghut* (un-Islamic government). There are five scenes on how to assemble an IED but detailed composition of bomb components were not provided in the video. One of the bomb making scenes featured Osama bin Laden’s voice encouraging an attack against the infidels. The video also features around a dozen successful operations utilizing IEDs conducted by *Daulah Islam Iraq*. An IED expert explained various types of IED in an interview style. According to him, IED with the strongest effects is directed IED that could be thrown at High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV). The second type is IED-type that uses pressure, which works when a vehicle of a certain weight passes by. The third type of IED is used with blocks and rope that would explode if the targeted people pass by. The fourth type of IED one that is pasted onto the car of the target. It is designed small in shape but with strong explosives. This IED have often been used for *ightiyalat* (secret assassination), by pasting it onto the targeted car. It explodes it after it reaches its destination. It could be placed on the enemy’s truck and to be exploded when the truck enters base camp to cause maximum damage. The fifth type is *rahib*, an IED which works only at night. It could be planted on the road and would detonate when the enemy passes by at night. The IED is prepared by attaching the timer

to the energy source. The timer will be cut off in the daytime and reconnect at night. The sixth type of IED is a camouflage, an empty IED which is placed in the road. This would alert the enemy and hinder them from passing the road. The enemy will also waste their time of trying to defuse them. This will enable *mujahideen* to have more spare time to attend to other matters.

The interview continued with the bomb expert giving advice to those conducting jihad: 1) to study bomb making and everything related to it, such as materials, distance, and direction; 2) it is obligatory to choose and study the targets and places to place the IEDs; 3) to be alert when handling a bomb as it can cause death if mishandled; 4) to ascertain that the IED is thrown accurately at targets to avoid Muslim casualties; 5) to document the attacks, as this is important to destroy the morale of the enemy and to boost the Muslims' morale; and 6) IED should be prepared seriously, aiming at destroying the target, not only to stop the movement of the enemy. The video was concluded with messages encouraging individuals to make IED, even those weighing less than 1 kg, to attack specific targets such as university students in infidel countries, military ships, oil tankers, trains, and water, gas and oil pipes. It was also added that anyone could assemble a bomb and that being graduates from the military academy or school of engineering are not necessary requirements to study bomb making skills.

Another forum member posted a link to download a video on the making of a phone detonator with Bahasa subtitle. The video was launched by Muslim Jihady Media. The video itself was originally posted in an Arabic extremist forum between 2007 and 2008. The phone will act as a detonator once there is an incoming SMS or call. The video ends urging the audience to practice it.

Manuals on Various Types of Small Arms

A member of a Bahasa Extremist Forum posted a link to download videos that describe types of guns, how to unload them and then to store properly. The videos constitute three parts. The first part – around 19 minutes, described 19 types of hand guns with instructions on how to unload them. It also showed a safe storage box where one could put his guns to keep them safe from unauthorized hands or children at home. Two types of guns can fit in into the box and the box could be opened within seconds. Some of the guns described in the videos includes Taurus PT99, Roger Security Six with 6 revolvers, Beretta Jetfire with single fire automatic magazine, Taurus PT-22 (double action gun that can be carried in a purse or pocket), and Colt Frontier Scout revolver. The video warned to keep a safe distance and to keep the finger out from the trigger area every time one takes a gun and unload it.

The second part of the video which has a less than 2 minute duration explained the shooting exercise using two types of ammunition: 9 mm hardball and 9 mm silvertrip, as well as the different effects they cause. The former can penetrate through the whole head. The 9 mm

silvertrip causes a lot more impact, as it can blow up a quarter of a head. Unlike the first two videos which originated from a Western source, the third video on the shooting exercise features Middle Easterners with instructions in Arabic.

Unlike other video postings which originated from Western or Arabic sources, this month features a locally-made (in Indonesia) video production on how to assemble and disassemble an AK-47. ICPVTR Informatics observes that this is the first locally-made video production on operating a firearm. This is also the second video on tradecraft found this month which are produced by Muslim Jihady Media (MJM). The AK-47 is among the types of weapons commonly seized by the Indonesian police during the raids against terrorist suspects conducted recently. ICPVTR Informatic's February 2011 report has mentioned on a member of the extremist forum who requested on how to assemble and disassemble an AK47. This video may be the response to that query. The video began by introducing the AK-47 that originated from the Soviet Union. It also explains that "Made in Egypt and China" duplicates are also available. The weapon requires 7.62 mm calibre ammunition and one magazine can be filled with 30 ammunitions, both automatic and semi-automatic. The video – apparently taken in a small bedroom with a typical Indonesian sarong draped on the headboard of the bed frame– showed an Indonesian man with his face fully covered in black except his eyes, on a bed with a bamboo bed-base showing how to assemble and disassemble the weapons in Bahasa. The 8-minute video also informed the audience to ensure that the weapon is unloaded first before it is further disassembled. In addition, another forum member posted a series on fire gun blueprint, PPsH41 rifle. It has pictures and descriptions of the components of the gun.

Urban Warfare and Combat Skills

Muslim Jihady Media has produced a series of papers in Bahasa on the topics of urban warfare and combat skills. The link to download the papers is available in a Bahasa Islamist extremist website. The paper totalling 93 pages on urban warfare skills consists of five chapters: movement, technique to enter the building; clearing the room occupied by the enemy; reflexive shooting, tunnel clearing, and communication code; and shooting positions. Previous ICPVTR Informatics report in April 2011 has featured a paper in Bahasa on the theory of general war, but was presented by **Al-Busyro Forum**. In addition, a paper on soldier combat skills consisting of 160-pages was also found. It comprises of six parts: place of protection/cover, hiding, and camouflage; combat position; movement; monitoring; tracking; and weapon and shooting control. In the past three months, at least three series of papers on warfare were produced, summarised and compiled from various sources – Western, Arabic, and Bahasa sources. It seems that there are more efforts to conduct research on *i'dad* (jihad preparation) within the extremist community, not merely just a translated paper like seen in the past.

Accepting Ayman az-Zawahiri as the Next Al Qaeda Leader

Ayman az-Zawahiri's new appointment as the leader of Al Qaeda, replacing Osama bin Laden was reported both in the mainstream media and Islamist extremist Arabic and Bahasa Indonesia online sites in mid- June 2011. While the mainstream media merely reports on the new appointment and updates related to it, Islamist extremist online sites provide the full actual content of information released by Al Qaeda regarding the appointment. The original source of material leading to this information is a video of the leader announcing that Al Qaeda will continue their struggle despite the death of Osama bin Laden. Subsequently in the same month, Al Qaeda released a statement that confirms the appointment and provides a list of principles that the organisation abides by.

In the Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online sites, this information which was originally in Arabic, is found in its translated Bahasa Indonesia versions. Apart from these materials, the Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community also released their own self-produced articles on Ayman az-Zawahiri. An example of such a material is a two-part article by **Arrahmah.com**. This effective information sharing and the absence of negative sentiments for Ayman az-Zawahiri highlight two observations; the Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community's acceptance of the new leader's appointment in Al Qaeda; and the Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community's continued interests in Al Qaeda. However, this report has chosen the word 'accept' instead of 'support' in describing the online community's sentiments for Ayman az-Zawahiri because of the absence of language glorifying the personality in the materials on this topic. Reactions on this topic found in forums too did not specifically show admiration and support for Ayman az-Zawahiri. The only comment specifically directed at Ayman az-Zawahiri is in a form of prayer that seeks the help of God to provide Ayman az-Zawahiri with the direction and guidance to lead Al Qaeda well, '*Semoga Allah luruskan langkahnya dan memberikan tawfiq padanya* (May Allah straighten his path and give him guidance)'. The following provides a description on the online materials on Ayman az-Zawahiri found in the Bahasa Indonesia online sites.

The statement released by Al Qaeda confirming on the new appointment of Ayman az-Zawahiri shows great respect for Osama bin Laden and less for Ayman az-Zawahiri. While Osama bin Laden is regarded as a martyr and a *mujahid* (holy warrior) who has sacrificed his life for the religion, Ayman az-Zawahiri was hoped to be given guidance and blessings from God to lead Al Qaeda well . Apart from the official announcement made, the statement also lists the 5 principles that Al Qaeda claims to abide to; the practice of the teachings of the Quran and Prophet Muhammad; the dedication to motivate all whom they regard as '*mujahideen*' namely those in Palestine, Afghanistan, Chechnya and Somalia ; the promise to help and support all those whom they deem to be fighting in the path of God; the continuous aim to free all detainees

whom they regard as their brothers including those previously in Guantanamo, Baghrom, Aby Ghuroyb prisons; and in their own words and interpretation – to help Muslims repressed by Muslim leaders in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Syria and Africa. Another article produced by the Bahasa Indonesia online community is a two-part article by **Arrahmah.com**. The article gives a short biography of Ayman az-Zawahiri which details his personal background, family, relationship with Osama bin Laden and experience in Islamist militancy.

Lessons and Motivation from the Lone Wolves

The sporadic emergence of individual terrorists planning or conducting attacks without the assistance or links with organized terrorist groups have brought the threat of terrorism to a whole new level. Fear is heightened especially because such individuals and plans are difficult to be detected by the intelligence.² Apart from this, it also shows a powerful and influential Al Qaeda ideology that is able to gain ‘recruits’³ all over the globe without a proper and systematic recruitment process that would require direct interaction with members of terrorist groups.

The Bahasa Indonesia Islamist extremist online community is aware of this growing threat and is harping on it to motivate more individuals to follow in the footsteps of known lone wolves. This is observed in an article, *‘Serigala Sendirian (Mimpi buruk Amerika) (The Lone Wolf (America’s Nightmare)’*. In the article, the author highlights the powerful negative impact that lone wolves have on the US and urges readers to use them as models to be emulated. He also gave descriptions of a list of lone wolves including Charles Bishop, Richard Reid, Major Nidal Hassan, Hasan Karim Akbar, Collen La Rose (Jihad Jane) and Faisal Shahzad.

Abu Bakar Bashir and JAT Deemed Innocent and Maligned by Indonesian Authorities

Abu Bakar Bashir’s sentence to 15 years imprisonment was used to portray a malevolent Indonesian government repressing Abu Bakar Bashir and his organisation Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT). Reports regarding the topic highlight Abu Bakar Bashir’s innocence, the invalidity of the Indonesian law and justice system and good mannerisms of members of JAT. This featured positive and innocent image of the Indonesian cleric and JAT describes the injustice procured by the Indonesian authorities which is ultimately painted to be an oppressor of those upholding the law of Islam such as Abu Bakar Bashir and JAT. Adjectives used to describe the Indonesian authorities and its system of law and order is *‘dzolim (malevolent)’*, *‘toghut (apostate)’* and *‘agen zionis (Zionist agent)’*. In contrast, Abu Bakar Bashir is often associated to

² Raffaello Pantucci, “A Typology of Lone Wolves: Preliminary Analysis of Lone Islamist Terrorists”, *International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence*, March 2011.

³ Individuals do not have direct links or relationships with terrorist groups, but will attribute his attack to the terrorist group, showing his support for group and its ideology.

being patient and victorious, *'kemenangan Ba'asyir yang tetap istiqomah menjalankan syari'at Islam* (Bashir's victory who is also consistent in implementing the Shariah)'. Lastly, articles on JAT reports on a JAT cleric Sonhadi promising that no acts of violence will be conducted by JAT during the trial because doing so will only cause more splits within the Muslim community. JAT also released a statement urging all not to believe in the rumours of impending terrorist attacks during the trial. It reasoned that such rumours were created by the Indonesian authorities to further malign Abu Bakar Bashir and JAT as terrorists. It provided a hotline for readers to call should they be interested in attending the trial to ensure a smooth mobilization of united supporters on the day of trial.