Monthly Informatics Report

Developments in the Bahasa Indonesia Websites

March 2012

Introduction

This report provides an analysis of significant developments and trends of the online extremist websites and communities during the month of March 2012. 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

- The most detailed and comprehensive bomb making manual in Bahasa Indonesia by far was found this month. It was originally written by Abu Khabab Al-Mishri, Al Qaeda’s chief bomb maker and chemical weapons expert, who was killed in Pakistan Strike in 2006.

- A rare comprehensive, insider critique on tactics and strategy of terrorism operation in Indonesia was posted this month. It also outlined tactics to evade arrest.

- Fundraising for the family of the terrorists has been intensified. Two proposals for funding had been put forward in the past three months. Details include funding for housing constructions, were found in an extremist forum.
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 Majlis 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 Majlis 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 27\(^{th}\) February 2012. The following online sites\(^2\) 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:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) [www.alexa.com](http://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
A manual providing a bomb making course and information on explosives was posted in an extremist this month. This manual is thus far the most detailed made available in Bahasa Indonesia extremist websites. A copy of the manual was also made available in another extremist website. The original manual was written in Arabic by Abu Khabab Al-Mishri, Al Qaeda’s chief bomb maker and chemical weapons expert, who was killed in Pakistan Strike in 2006. The original manual was released by Global Islamic Media Front (GIMF) and Darul Jabhah. Both entities are online international media that specializes in producing jihadi publications. The course provided in the manual consists of three sections.

The first section is called laboratory. The author begins by highlighting various safety precautions. He states that the student must at all times operate under the teacher’s supervision. Other safety precautions include ensuring that the floor of the laboratory must not be slippery and that a first aid kit should always be present in the laboratory. The author further stated other precautions taken when the handling various tools and chemical ingredients in the lab.

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In the second section, the author provided a basic chemistry lesson with details of lab equipment and the basic principles of chemistry. Details of bomb making chemicals with their scientific representations were also provided. The author also gave instructions on how to obtain the chemical through everyday shops such as medical stores, agriculture shops, dental clinics, supermarkets, gold shops, and painting shops.

In the third section, instructions on manufacturing the explosives were provided. The author defines explosives as a compound or a chemical mixture that can change to a lot quantity of gases in a very short time thus producing mechanical destruction and very high temperature. He also provided details of the three types of explosives and meticulously detailed their production process. This was done by way of illustrations. Manufacturing of various bomb components such as the detonators was also provided through illustrations.

In the month of March, the bomb making manual post in this forum received the most attention. The Bahasa Indonesia version of the manual was also posted in international extremist forums. When compared to other postings in the Bahasa Indonesia Forum, the bomb manual received the most interest among the forum members. This is indicated by the manifold number of replies as compared to other postings. This could indicate that there is serious intent on the part of forum members to do at least *i’dad* (jihad preparation) in bomb making. This is a cause of concern as the manual provides simple instructions that can be easily followed.

In practice, it can be argued that only well educated individuals, particularly those with chemistry backgrounds, would be the most ideal in using the manual. For example, Kurnia Widodo, a terrorist convicted for six years in prison for possession of explosive materials had a degree in chemical engineering. He went so far as to test two sophisticated assembled bombs in a mountain area in Sumedang, West Java. This test was conducted despite the fact that Kurnia did not receive extensive bomb making training. The existence of a Bahasa Indonesia version of the manual poses a threat to Indonesia as it is thus far the most credible bomb making manual to date available in the native language. The main cause of concern is the fact that a number of individuals have shown serious interest in studying the manual.

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Fundraising for the Family of the Convicted and Slain Terrorists

The extremists’ commitment towards the well being of the family of convicted terrorists or slain suspected terrorists was recently proven with a written proposal. The proposal calls for the construction of rumah singgah (temporary house) for the wives of the terrorists and their children, and tahfidzul Qur’an (memorising Qur’an) pesantren for the children of the terrorists. This project was organised by Solo-based Rumah Putih (White House) which has in the last two years been active in taking care of the needs of the families of the terrorists. This organisation conducts activities such as fund raising for arranging prison visit for the family, paying the housing rental cost for the wives of the detainee or slain terrorist suspects, providing children’s school fees as well as groceries.

The 8-page fundraising proposal which includes an annex of the list of the committee members, listed that there were more than fifteen wives with children who are still in need to pay the housing rental costs. The proposal states that the cost of one year’s rental is Rp 4 million (US$421). A ten-year cost for all the wives would be Rp 6 billion (US$631,578). As such, Rumah Putih argued that it is better if a house specifically built to accommodate the wives and the children instead of continuing to subsidize the wives’ housing. He argues that the current houses can be used for other purposes. The program is called “KASTA BARU which is an abbreviation of (Rp) One Million Movement to Build a House. The program targets for 1,000 individuals donating a minimum of Rp 1 million (US$105) each. The program cites an extremist website as media partner. The proposal also revealed that if as of May 2012, the fund only gathered less than Rp 300 million (US$31,578), the project will cease. The proposal stated that the money will be returned to the donors, unless the donors agree to disburse the money among the wives. The proposal also stated that the project required a total of Rp 1 billion (US$105,263) in which Rp 200 million will be used for land acquisition and Rp 800 million for the construction and other equipment) and will be built in Solo Greater Area in a ± 2000 m² land.

Another similar program of fundraising for the terrorist family was initiated by Gashibu Nusantara. It called extremist forum members to donate Rp 1,000 (US$0.105) every day. Gashibu Nusantara stated that in the short term, the money would be donated to the family of convicted and deceased terrorists. The money would be used for paying the family’s loan, giving scholarship and school package, herbal medicines, clothes, household utensils, and venture capital. Gashibu Nusantara stated that the money will be used for a long term program that would include visits to the families of slain terrorists and other Indonesian jihadists, conduct
tourism on religious outreach across the country, and other building projects. These building projects include building healthy houses and *shariah* housing complex for the family of slain terrorists and mosques in schools, cooperatives, and a business unit, in which the profit will be given to the family of the martyrs and jihadists.

Based on the statements, it seems that Gashibu Nusantara and Rumah Putih are different entities despite having similar proposals. Rumah Putih, chaired by Zaki Faishal, seems to be more credible it always makes itself accountable in the past. Its proposal is more credible because it published the name of the committee members (26 people), the expenditure of their activities and expenses through its media partner, and stated the head quarter’s address and phone number. The Rumah Putih Proposal was also posted by main administrator of the extremist forum himself.

On the other hand, Gashibu Nusantara has no publicised track record in organising fundraising for the family of the terrorists. It only provides a bank account for transferring the money, under the name of Irkham Fuadi. Gashibu Nusantara claims to be a purely independent social movement and not affiliated to any group, congregation, and political party. Its address and or phone number is not provided on its website. There is possibility that Gashibu Nusantara is a fraud. If it is not a fraud, it is likely managed by a terrorist cell to raise funds for their operations. Nevertheless, Gashibu Nusantara proposal, which was posted by an Al-Busyro Forum member, Muhibbu Qo’idatul Jihad, had garnered 12 thankful replies. In comparison the Rumah Putih proposal post only received four thankful replies. The higher number of replies for the Gashibu proposal is probably due to the fact that it was posted on January 2012. The proposal was unique as it is the first kind of proposal posted in the forum and hence garnered more attention than the second proposal which was posted by Rumah Putih two months later.

**Trilogy of Jihad**

The main administrator of an extremist forum posted a paper on the trilogy series of jihad revivals in Indonesia. This trilogy was written by “Abu Jaisy Al-Ghareeb”. The paper was published by Ghurobaa’ Publishing in cooperation with the forum and is a product of a team effort. The paper was written based on the authors’ personal experiences, interviews conducted with jihadists both who are free or incarcerated as well as analyses of news on media platforms. The authors claimed to have been involved in several jihad terrorism crimes in Indonesia. The paper consists of three parts. Only the first two parts have been published. The first part contains
reflections and the second part deals with topic on how to deal with *thaghut* (oppressor) treason. Forty one forum members have expressed their gratitude for the “useful” publication posted. Other important comments states that it was hoped that the paper would inflame the spirit of jihad and enlighten the spirit to uphold an Islamic state in Indonesia; and that more individuals involved in jihad would publish more of such papers.

The first part of the trilogy provided some insights and analyses of the preparation of jihadi training in Aceh. The paper stated that the preparation for the training started in early 2010 when it was intended to be started on April 2009. It further stated that the first batch of trainees were supposed to be sent on July 2009. This was postponed because of the 2009 J.W. Marriott and Ritz Carlton Bombing. Despite the postponement, recruitment and fundraising activities continued. The authors also revealed insights into the dynamics of mujahidin cells in Medan that were involved in a series of robberies there. The paper also further provided insights into the weaknesses of the Aceh training military camp. Some of the weaknesses were listed. First, the paper states that the recruitment process was too “open” and hasty and lacks an adequate selection process. Second, there was a ‘leak’ of information about the training programs to those who did not depart to Aceh and to family members of the trainees. Third, there was carelessness in the usage of communication devices which was easily detected by the authorities. Fourth, the choice of using the Jantho mountain in Aceh as a training area was a mistake. This was due to the fact that locals were still conducting activities near the training camps. The authors also state that the jihadi trainers also neglected to take into consideration the Acehnese people sentiments against immigrants from Java.

In its second part of the trilogy, the authors emphasized the importance of jihad operations used to overthrow the *thaghut* government. They rejected argument that states that the jihad movement was not ready to wage war because the enemy is too strong. The authors argued that the current *thaghut* government can be overthrown by smaller sized terror operations. They also lambasted those who have left jihad cyber activities (jihadi forums, pages, facebook groups, etc.) out of fear of being monitored by the authorities. The authors argue that the authorities would not make an arrest if one only posted jihadi materials online. They even argued that it is fine to organize *i’dad* or gathering, as the authorities’ have limited operational activities. The authors also provided another account of the lack of solidarity among mujahidin to help the under-funded fugitives or even to provide food and shelter for the mujahidin even for just a few days. They encouraged Muslims to improve solidarity in helping mujahidin involved in jihad operations. They authors assert that this help provided is considered as mental *i’dad* (preparation) to secure the success of urban guerrilla warfare.
This trilogy is believed to have been completed in November 2011. It is by thus far the most comprehensive self-review of all acts of major terrorism operation in Indonesia. It pointed out mistakes, from the 2002 Bali Bombings to the 2010 Aceh military training camps, and explained how to prevent them. Sidney Jones, a terrorism expert, believes that the ‘authors’ is actually a single author who reported to Sabar who was involved in a number of minor bank robberies in Medan and is currently at large. Sabar has links to almost every different radical groups operating in Indonesia. This paper also criticized JI, which the author claims to have been infiltrated by the authorities. The author also claims that Abu Rusydan, the current leader of JI, is a puppet of the Indonesian state.  