

Promoting Peace, Countering Terrorism in Indonesia: The Role of Indonesian Media

Munjin Syafik and Seniwati

Department of International Relations, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia

Abstract: This research focuses on the role of Indonesian media in countering terrorism in Indonesia. In fighting terrorism, government needs to develop social-media such as television, Facebook, Twitter, magazine and Newspaper. The terrorist actions cause injury and loss of life, therefore the role of media is needed as a soft approach in fighting terrorism. The aim of research is to look into the role of the media in fighting terrorism. Research question is in what ways the Indonesian media counter the terrorist actions in Indonesia. Ethnographic content analysis is used in this research to document and understand the communication of meaning. For the analysis, social media influences public through its programmes. The media can change the radical mindset of people. Government can take advantage in using this media in countering terrorism. Through the media, the public knows the threat of terrorist in the region. Thus, societies can support the government strategies. For the conclusion, through the media, government gets the respect and sympathy of public in countering terrorism.

Key words: Countering terrorism, ethnographic, government, media, public influences, understand, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian government needs to develop social-media in countering terrorism in Indonesia. The government can use the traditional media such as TV, radio and Newspapers and also the new media such as the internet. These medias have played a crucial part in the communication of fight terrorism in Indonesia. On August 9, 2003, Kompas is one of news in Indonesia informed “one of the Bali bombers, Noordin Mohammad Top, stepped in to Hambali’s role and continued attacking Western-associated targets in Indonesia. His faction bombed the Jakarta Marriot Hotel in September 2003, the Australian Embassy in September 2004 and Bali tourist venues again in October 2005” (Kompas, 2003). Then, the Jakarta Post is also one of news in Indonesia informed “each bombing led to further arrests by Detachment 88, a new counter-terrorism unit within the Indonesian National Police. In response to the crackdown, JI’s leadership distanced itself from Noordin’s breakaway faction and eschewed mass-casualty attacks on foreign targets. Instead, they sought a secure base in Poso, a Sulawesi town recovering from recent communal conflict. JI’s Poso network focused on killing Christians and government officials and in 2005, shocked the nation by beheading three Christian schoolgirls Jp., 2013. Both medias successfully discovered the issue of terrorism in Indonesia. It exemplifies the Indonesian media in countering terrorism in Indonesia.



Fig. 1: The first Bali bombing

According to Seniwati *et al.*, said that the action of terrorism shocked not only the USA especially after the attacks of 11 September, 2001 but also Southeast countries including Indonesia (Azizuddin *et al.*, 2012). Southeast Asia was becoming the hub of global terrorist activities after the first Bali bombing in October 2002 (Fig. 1).

The twin towers of the World Trade Center was attacked by the terrorist on September 11, 2001 with nearly 3,000 casualties besides huge financial, economic and other collateral losses (Seniwati, 2014). On October 12, 2002, the terrorist attacked Sari Club and Paddi Cafe Bali in which some 202 people were killed (Seniwati, 2014). The terrorist actions cause injury and loss of life including the destruction of the property, public and international facilities and vital strategic. Moreover, their actions created an atmosphere of fear among target populations. Given this background it follows that in countering

terrorism through the media is an interesting case because the media have made an input in fighting terrorism.

The problem statement: In fighting terrorism through the media is one of the soft power approaches toward deradicalization. But in reporting counter terrorism, journalists sometimes fail to adopt a compressive approach. Moreover, in formulating their broadcast policy, the media sometimes fail to incorporate counter terrorism programmes. The media agenda is dominated by the prioritization of profit-making over societal wellbeing. Lurstgarten and Debix said that the media's preference for 'flashy audience-grabbing and ratings-soaring image or story' makes them to be nonchalant in matters which are of interest to the public, owing to their inability to pursue events in detail (2005). Few of studies researched centre on an in-depth analysis of Newspapers, magazines or television broadcast programmes to find out the government strategies in fighting terrorism in Indonesia. This research focuses on the role of media to give education and information to the public about counter terrorism in Indonesia. The media's involvement in promoting counter terrorism provides a viable strategy for engaging public to support government in fighting terrorism.

The aim of research: The aim of this research is to look into the role of the media in fighting terrorism by analyzing the Indonesian media.

Research question: In what ways, the Indonesian media counter the terrorist actions in Indonesia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data collection method: Ethnographic content analysis is used in this research to document and understand the communication of meaning. This method focuses on the data based on counter terrorism that were revealed in the programme. The finding and analysis will be a combination of data from the Newspaper, Twitter, Facebook, TV and magazines.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Discussion and analysis: Social media has a role to play in promoting counter terrorism. It influences public through its programmes. Therefore, media needs the freedom of the press in all aspects of the society in considering the role to counter terrorism in Indonesia. Jacobsen said that "the right to press freedom warrants the media the right to determine the form which their



Fig. 2: Police killed 103 terror suspects in Indonesia in a decade

programmes will assume as well as the appropriate form of reporting" (Jasobsen, 2008). For instance, the Jakarta Post as one of news published.

Turkish president recep tayyip erdogan will discuss a range of economic issues and counterterrorism with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo during his three-day state visit in the capital (Dylan, 2015).

Above media "the Jakarta Post" tries to explain the international cooperation between Turkey and Indonesia to counter terrorism. Even though, the media did not report details the strategies counter terrorism both countries. Then, Kompas as the national news in Indonesia published.

The Indonesian and Philippine Navies have agreed to intensify sea patrols to deal with arms smuggling and terrorism a top Indonesian naval officer said. The two navies had so far conducted routine joint patrols along their common sea borders in a coordinated way, Indonesian Naval Chief of Staff Admiral Agus Suhartono said on Monday. "In April we will conduct joint patrols to curb smuggling activity and terrorist acts", he said. He admitted the two navies had often found it difficult to catch red-handed terrorism-related arms smugglers. Philippine-registered ships which employed Indonesian nationals often carried basic necessities to be exchanged with marine products in the coastal areas of North Maluku, he said, "(The crew members) often capitalize on the situation to smuggle in weapons. But when we are about to catch them they throw the weapons int the sea. So, we have difficulty catching them red-handed", he said. He said the Indonesian Navy had also been conducting joint patrols with the Malaysian, Singapore and Thai Navies in securing the Malacca Strait. Separately, on Monday, spokesman of the Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) Commodore Sagom Tamboen said the navy had been tightening its patrols in water ways across the country particularly those often used by foreign ships as part of its efforts to prevent smuggling activity and terrorist acts" (Kompas, 2010) (Fig 2).

The media “Kompas” above reported details Indonesian countering terrorism with ASEAN countries especially to fight smuggling. Fighting smuggling is one of the terrorism prevention in Indonesia and Southeast Asia in general. Counter terrorism and democracy are mutually related to each other. Therefore, media needs freedom of expression and press freedom. Media has ability to provide information to public in helping government to support government’s strategy in fighting terrorism. The Jakarta Post and Kompas are national Newspaper have been recommended to carry more content favoring efforts to root out terrorism from Indonesia.

Moreover, not only Newspaper can play in fighting terrorism but also the social media companies such as Twitter, Facebook and Whatsapp had become control networks for terrorist action. Government can use Twitter, Facebook and Whatsapp to create a network with near-global reach. The example below shows the strategy of Indonesian government especially the head of Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT) in fighting terrorism in Indonesia.

The head of Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT) Ansyad Mbay said last week that during a decade of fighting against terror networks in the country, the police force has killed at least 103 terror suspects in Indonesia on site while 13 others committed suicide before they could be arrested. “What we did is in accordance to the law because terrorism (More text given in this link).

The Indonesian National Counter terrorism Agency (BNPT) Archives-The Establishment Post <http://www.establishmentpost.com/tag/the-indonesian-national-counterterrorism-agency-bnpt/#ixzz3oF0eJeVL> Thank you for reading The Establishment Post. Permission to reproduce material under the “fair” use” principle is granted PROVIDED a link to the original source material is included with the cited material. The Establishment Post maintains © ownership on Follow us: @EstabPost on Twitter | TheEstablishmentPost on Facebook.

The media “Twitter and Facebook above” shows the freedom of expression to take the issue of counter terrorism seriously and develop their ideas on the web platforms they host. Government officials can take advantage in using this media for their strategy. Thus, societies support the government strategy because they know the threat of terrorism in the region. Below is the example of terrorism action and the Indonesian strategy (Fig. 3 and 4).

Home grown terrorism in Indonesia may get an extra boost, despite Indonesian anti terrorism agencies making a major effort in the past decade. A recent report from Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC) says that



Fig. 3: Terrorism in Indonesia; syrian conflict fighters returning home pose new threat



Fig. 4: Wanted Indonesian terrorist Dulmatin though killed in raid

some Indonesian extremists took part in the Syrian conflict and according to Indonesian officials, have returned to Indonesia. According to the report for the (More text given in this link):

The Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) Archives-The Establishment Post <http://www.establishmentpost.com/tag/the-indonesian-national-counterterrorism-agency-bnpt/#ixzz3oF5cImltK>. Thank you for reading The Establishment Post. Permission to reproduce material under the “fair use” principle is granted PROVIDED a link to the original source material is included with the cited material. The Establishment Post maintains © ownership on Follow us: @EstabPost on Twitter | TheEstablishmentPost on Facebook

The media “Facebook and Twitter” above served as socio-political tool in countering terrorism in Indonesia. This is an evident that the media are useful in ensuring that counter terrorism through the media’s publication is the soft approach in changing the radical mindset. Therefore, the soft approach considers the potential for media to significantly engaged in fighting terrorism efforts.

Indonesia propose counter-terrorism cooperation with MILKTA

TEMPO Jakarta: Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi has proposed a counter-terrorism cooperation through

exchanging intel and legal information with Mexico, South Korea, Turkey and Australia. The four nations and Indonesia are included in a band of cooperating nations called by its abbreviation MIKTA. "Indonesia is committed to battle terrorism", said Minister Retno before the UN General Assembly Session in New York. "Measures involves prevention, early detection, legal conduct and rehabilitation", Previously, Minister Retno also said that inter-faith dialogue is a part of soft-power approach in dealing with terrorism. "Indonesia proposed to host MIKTA interfaith dialogue", he said. MIKTA itself was founded by Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in 2013. The group of nation has helped propose a joint-statement on climate change as well as commitment on global and regional situation.

Tempo is an Indonesian weekly magazine that publishes political issues. This media provides a safe environment for the promotion of counter terrorism in Indonesia. In publishing the Indonesian strategy to counter terrorism, Tempo is expected to spearhead the fostering of soft strategy to fight terrorism and national understanding. Masmoudi said that the media get the implication for its publication such as it can keep peace in the society, public could understand about the international problem and fighting racism (Masmoudi, 2008). This is mean that media might have been directly involved in countering terrorism as a soft strategy because it ensures that terrorists action is a threat for public.

The body of the man believed to be Dulmatin. Image from Metro TV. Indonesia's counterterrorism police believe they have killed a top al Qaeda-linked terrorist during a raid outside the capital of Jakarta today. Police believe that wanted terrorist and master bomb maker Dulmatin was killed during a shootout today at a home in the Jakarta suburb of Pamulang, Detik News reported. The home is said to be owned by a pediatrician named Dr. Fauzi who is now wanted and on the run. The suspect, thought to be Dulmatin, shot at officers from Indonesia's elite counterterrorism police unit, Detachment 88, before being killed. Two other terror suspects were also killed in a shootout during a separate raid at the Multiplus Internet Cafe in Pamulang. Police are working to confirm that the person killed during the raid on the home was indeed Dulmatin; the confirmation may take up to two days, however. Dulmatin's family has denied that he was killed during the raid.

Metro TV is one of television of Indonesia's channel. It is TV station to offer some programs related counter terrorism strategies in Indonesia such as news program and interactive dialogue with the counter terrorism

experts. Government through television channels is in excellent positions to lead public opinion for the government's strategies counter terrorism.

CONCLUSION

Government needs publicity and propaganda to promote the strategies counter terrorism. The main aim of this publicity is to get awareness of various audiences inside and outside country. So, that the government's strategy counter terrorism get the respect and sympathy of public. Television channels, Newspapers, magazines, Facebook and Twitter have always been interested in reporting Indonesian strategy counter terrorism. These medias believe the news of strategies counter terrorism is believed to keep audiences captivated and boost ratings, circulation and increase profits.

REFERENCES

- Azizuddin, M., M. Sani and K. Nadaraja, 2012. Cooperation between Indonesia and Asean to counter terrorism in Indonesia. *Acad. Res. Intl.*, 2: 678-685.
- Dylan, A., 2015. Erdogan to discuss economy, counterterrorism with Jokowi. *Jakarta Post*, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- JP., 2013. Indonesia militant serving 19 years escapes. *The Jakarta Post*, Jakarta, Indonesia. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/04/26/indonesian-militant-serving-19-years-escapes.html>.
- Jacobsen, A., 2008. *Human Rights Monitoring: Field Mission Manual*. Brill Publishers, Leiden, Netherlands, ISBN:9789004165175, Pages: 628.
- Kompas, 2003. Indonesia's new counter-terrorism challenges. The Jamestown Foundation, Washington, D.C., USA. <https://jamestown.org/program/indonesias-new-counter-terrorism-challenges/>.
- Kompas, 2010. Indonesia and Philippine unite forces to counter terrorism. *Kompas*, Munich, Germany.
- The role of the media in monitoring international humanitarian law during military interventions: The case of Kosovo. *Peace Change*, 30: 359-397.
- Masmoudi, M., 2008. Freedom of expression and the social responsibility of the media in the information society. *Global Media J.*, Vol. 7,
- Seniwati, 2014. *Indonesian Government in Countering Terrorism*. Master Thesis, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Changlun, Malaysia.