

Global Communication and ISIS Terrorists

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The research is financed by Indonesian Ministry of Research and Higher Education (PDUPT Kemenristekdikti)

Abstract

Every year, in any part of countries or even any part of the world, there have been acts of violence or radicalism carried out by terrorists. These particular terrorists intend to show the world that there is always something recent to show to the international community. A person or a group of people from terrorist circles could have been shot dead by security forces, but in fact, a number of other people are running the same pattern of considering themselves as part of terrorism. A group of terrorists referred to by the international community has recently emerged as ISIS (Islamic State Iraq and Syria) terrorists. Although the ISIS terrorist is categorized as a newly formed terrorist, his actions have stirred up the world. A number of people from various countries, including Indonesia, are managed to "be herded" as part of its power. The pattern of their global communication is able to make a number of people willing to die in order to defend their movement.

Keywords: terrorism, global communication, influence, strategies

1. Introduction

Almost every year, in any part of the world, Indonesia is unexceptionally to be tested by events named crimes committed by terrorists. A person or a group of people commits various acts of violence or cruelty such as detonating a bomb in buildings or crowd, which undeniably causes physical damage to the buildings and the death of several people.

People, who think normally and uphold the values of humanity and civilization, surely wonder why an act which clearly destroys civilization, creates chaos in the community, and presents humanitarian sorrow, was committed repeatedly by a number of people called terrorists. Meanwhile, most of them call themselves religious.

It is logical that based on violence produced by the terrorist, J.E Sahetapy (2002) states that common people generally define violence as the active acts of killing, destroying, burning, bombing, hitting, stabbing, raping, molesting etc. However, in theoretical studies, according to various views, violence is not always interpreted as an active physical act. It can be in the form of non-physical, psychological, theological, cultural, social, economic, structural, and even narrative actions. Cases such as terrorist bombings have contained communicative messages which could mean global, theological, and other political messages.

The case of churches bombings in Surabaya which invites the "curse" of the international community is one of the examples of terrorism cases. This case indicates that terrorism seeks to perform or demonstrate its communications to the world community and that its radicalistic actions are able to drive people's attention. They invite the world community to read its doctrine, to examine or analyze its movements, and to map out how its organizational performance will be running in the future.

So, what about ISIS terrorism? Is their movement identical to that of terrorism in general? How does ISIS strive to attract the attention of global community?

II. Discussion

2.1. Acknowledging ISIS Terrorists

Prior to the ISIS terrorism discussion, terrorism has gained a lot of expert's attention. In Webster's New School and Office Dictionary, Wilder (1962) states that "*terrorism is the use of violence, intimidation, to gain to end, especially a system of government ruling by terror, the culprit is called a terrorist. Furthermore, as a verb terrorize is to fill with dread or terror, terrify; to intimidate or coerce by terror or by threats of terror*". (pp. 274) Another meaning which is mentioned on article 14 subsection 1 in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) act, 1984, is that "terrorism means the use of violence for political ends and includes any use of violence for the purpose fear".

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Convention on Combating Terrorism (1999) asserted that "believing that terrorism is an obstacle to the free functioning of institutions and socio-economic development as it aims at destabilizing states."

The debate regarding the rules or convention in relation with the formulation of terrorism is also submitted by M. Cherif Bassiouni (2002) stating that "*there is no comprehensive convention on terrorism that even modestly incorporates into the text. The logic of such a compelling, as is the logic against the current piecemeal approach taken by the separate conventions. Nevertheless, the United States has consistently opposed such a convention since 1972, ostensibly so that it can pick and choose from these disparate norms those that it wishes to rely upon. Above all, the United States does not want to have an effective multilateral scheme that would*

preservably restrict its unfettered political power to act unilaterally.”

In 1977, an understanding of criminal or terrorist crime was first discussed in the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (ECST). Although it was already formulated, the essence of terrorism criminal acts is still raising problems of multi-interpretation. International amnesty (1986), for example, acknowledges problems related to the definition of terrorism criminal acts by stating that “*there is no universally accepted definition or term for world terrorism in general use or in treaties and laws designed to combat it*”. (pp.3)

The many approaches in recognizing the order, convention, or other aspects related to terrorism indicate that terrorism is a highly serious problem of every nation on earth. This problem becomes even more serious when ISIS terrorism engages in many and various radical movements in different parts of the world, including Indonesia.

ISIS, also known as the Islamic State, or IS, ISIL, and *Da'esch* (an abbreviation in Arabic), is the latest incarnation of al-Qaeda's deadly ideology, formed during a *proxy war* in Afghanistan in the late 1980s. However, the successor of al-Qaeda is considered more successful than its parent because it managed to conquer the area of England and control it. It is as if they made it look like a foundation for all sympathizers around the world who are eager to jointly build the *Khilafah Islamiyah*.

ISIS is probably the world's richest terrorist organization, according to US Treasury Department calculations. The funds come partly from oil fields which can generate 40 million USD per month.

The threat of ISIS in Southeast Asia is smaller but real when compared to other regions. It also has the potential to become larger if it is not handled properly. It is obvious that ISIS has refreshed the already growing network of terrorism in Southeast Asia. Najib Razak (in the capacity as the Prime Minister of Malaysia), when opening the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 21st November, invites us to be aware of the real threat in our region.

It is perfectly natural that Najib Razak is furious. It is because not only local militants and groups like Abu Sayyaf have vowed to join the Islamic State, but they also have cruelly killed a citizen named Bernard Then, a Malaysian citizen beheaded in Philippines.

According to Najib Razak, he calls ISIS as a collection of extremists who spread ideology and cause sadistic cruelty. He thinks that people should not lose sight of the fact that ideology itself has been exposed as a lie which is not in accordance with Islam. His ideology is highly against Islam.

It is known that about 600-800 Southeast Asians, including women and children, have traveled to Iraq and Syria. The first group has returned to Malaysia and Indonesia. Lee Hsien Loong (in the capacity of the Prime Minister of Singapore) stated that Southeast Asia is the ISIS recruitment center.

Indonesia, as the world's third largest democratic country and a country with a population of over 250 million people, is the center of ISIS recruitment in the Southeast Asia. Indonesia has also suffered because of a number of deadly terrorist attacks after the Bali bombings in 2002. The Bali Bombing terrorists are members of Jemaah Islamiyah, a local terrorist group which is funded, trained and inspired from Al-Qaeda, the chained network of the birth of ISIS.

When reading or observing at the network of terrorism, then ISIS is a “child” of a network of terrorism which has been prominent worldwide. The difference is that ISIS has been updating and even revolutionizing the motion models or ways to shake the world.

2.2. Model of Global Communication

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ISIS terrorists seek to communicate globally by demonstrating a message to the world community that ISIS cannot be underestimated both personally and organizationally. ISIS is demonstrating to the international community that, by its power, ISIS is able to “produce” fears everywhere through radical patterns such as bombings by sending someone or a number of people committing suicide.

Its patterns of global communication are demonstrated in a variety of ways, including attacking state institutions, public facilities, places of worshipping, holding open warfare, and creating frightening violations. These patterns of movements are adapted to the level of development, particularly to each targeted community or countries.

One of the seriously targeted ISIS tools is the Indonesian Republic Police (Polri). Polri, by Satjipto Raharjo (2002), is referred to as the foremost guard in criminal law enforcement. So, it is not exaggerating to say that the police are said to be the living criminal law. This Police assignment has been attempted to be reduced or even defeated by ISIS. This is proven by their courage of attacking or blowing up the police headquarters.

ISIS also conveyed a message to the international community that any signposts addressed to ISIS were

useless. The resolution which tries to remind every law enforcement apparatus to not neglect human rights in law enforcement is neglected by ISIS.

The particular conditions or emergencies above seems to be highly recognized by the international community through the United Nations Resolution 34/169 of 17th December 1979 regarding “*Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials*”, which allows law enforcement officers to force as an excessive act in carrying out their duties and the 8th UN Congress on “*the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*” which has accepted “*the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials*” (1998, pp.22) is considered to be an object of challenge by ISIS. ISIS does not need any protection when a cadre is arrested by the law enforcement. ISIS even commands a fight in any way to succeed its mission, albeit with the gamble of his life.

ISIS’s communicative and political attitudes to the world are due to the communication patterns conveyed to the mainstream world of violence as a fundamental choice of struggle. Thomas Santoso categorizes violence into three major groups: (1) violence as an actor or a group of actors, (2) violence as a product of structure, and (3) violence as a network between actors and structures (Santoso, 2005, pp.5). Based on these categorized terms, ISIS uses violence as an actor or a group of actors’ acts.

For many times, terrorism, especially those affiliated with ISIS, is successfully dismantled by the authorities (Densus 88). Repeatedly, ISIS terrorism continues to challenge the apparatus and society through its horrific and radicalistic movements.

The acceleration of terrorism indirectly conveys a message (communication) or a lesson to the community that it is such a big mistake if the Indonesian people or the global community, especially the authorities, concluded that ISIS terrorism is successfully silenced or dismantled from its network.

A number of cases indicate that ISIS’s terrorist efforts dominate the world. For example, ISIS always commemorates the big movements such as the Paris attacks which occurred on 13th November 2016 which killed 132 people and injured 350 others. In this Paris case, ISIS claims to have committed suicide and did suicide bombings in six different places in Paris, the capital of France. They increased the escalation of attacks into war, while they also signal that there is coordination from the central ISIS which has been considered not established by Western countries (2018).

After the incident, Head of the Center for Political Violence and Terrorist Research Rohan Gunaratna told Rappler that France will play a key role in the international efforts to stabilize conflict zones in Syria, Iraq, Libya, other Middle Eastern countries, and Africa. This kind of reaction is what ISIS awaits because ISIS is keen to know the political reactions of the post-radicalism countries around the world.

In addition to that case, the action pattern has also become an ISIS model in exhibiting the movement. After the Paris action, on 17th November, Russia announced that a bomb had paralyzed an airplane passing through Egyptian airspace, killing 224 passengers. ISIS claims responsibility for this aircraft blasting. After this case, another incident which killed 43 people also occurred at a market in Beirut, Lebanon, which was also claimed by ISIS.

The World Leadership Summit, ranging from G20 in Turkey, APEC in Philippines, to the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia, also reacted strongly to the ISIS attacks. Heads of governments of these countries are calling for unity and collective action to combat terrorism. Even Barack Obama (in the capacity to become the US President) more firmly stated that ISIS is the face of demons.

After reading (analyzing) the actions and reactions towards ISIS terrorism, it can be understood that, in reality, ISIS shows its challenges. The acceleration of the radical movement is shown to the world so that the international community keeps reading the its political movements.

ISIS terrorism may be a show of strength to teach more horrific lessons to the society and to the world, as they have many “envoys” that they have established to be strategic forces. All of which are the result of recruiting cadres in order to maintain the sustainability of their organizational mission.

The phenomenon is interpreted that many social and religious elements perform as a power to defend ISIS which is a product of cadre recruitment. ISIS itself, through its network of communications, continues to spread its organizational activities which successfully gain followers, especially from the youths in different parts of the world. All of which are done to show the world that ISIS exists in the global arena.

2.3. Responding ISIS’s Global Communication

The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in a meeting of Islamic counterterrorism alliance which was held last November in Riyadh, promised to pursue the terrorists until they are destroyed from the face of the earth. In his speech, Mohammed mentioned that in recent years, terrorism has trapped our country (Koran Jakarta, 2017), or risked many human rights (victims), whereas according to Jan Materson human rights are inherent rights to human beings without which humans are impossible to live (Wibowo, 2002, pp. 41-42).

Barda Nawawi Arief (2005) also mentioned that the policy or effort related to crime prevention is essentially an integral part between social defense and social welfare effort. Therefore, it can be said that the

ultimate goal or main purpose of criminal politics is the defense of society to achieve social welfare. His ultimate goal is the protection of human rights, in this case the rights of the victim. If terrorism can be prevented from afar, the target (victim) can be saved from the possibility of life rights and life sustainability losses.

The global alliance of some states also deals with the protection of the people (HAM) which is undoubtedly the target of ISIS. The alliance's meeting of a number of countries is also the first meeting of defense ministers and other senior officials of the Islamic Military Contra-Terrorism Coalition which formally comprises 41 countries and is considered an integrated front pan-Islam to counter extremism. The alliance was actually announced in 2015 under Prince Mohamed's auspices. The alliance is composed largely of Sunni-majority countries or governed by Sunni leaders, though not exclusively (Koran Jakarta, 2017. pp.2).

The secretary-general of the Islamic Alliance, General Abdulelah al-Saleh, said his side denied the existence of politics of exiling or neglecting certain countries and religions in congregating these alliances. He mentions that the pillars of this coalition are inclusions. While the common enemy or the main enemy is ISIS, not a religion, sect, or a particular race.

In relation with the alliance, the logical question addressed to the new alliance is whether or not they will be able to deal with terrorism, especially ISIS. In addition, is it true that terrorism can be terminated through the global assemblage it confronts?

The new alliance should still be appreciated as a bold step in dealing with or combating terrorism. Any form of effort or pattern of countering terrorism from a group of people, organizations, local, national to global forces must be respected because the war on terrorism requires a lot of energy from anywhere and anyone.

The convergence of the power of any religious element on earth is needed to fight terrorists. No one should exhibit an attitude of truth claims. No one can assume to be the most correct party and therefore be responsible for the occurrence and rise of terrorism.

A global alliance made up of nations or other labeled countries, especially in religious plurality is not a problem. As for the problem is the terrorism which remains in the hemisphere, which requires every nation to jointly reject and evoke defenses seriously.

A global alliance demands consequences in the form of no justification of political attitudes or policies which proclaimed the state or community to be the safest against terrorism. This is because such a political attitude reflects the nation or state proclaiming to be selfish and exclusive which of course alienate themselves from global integration or "fraternity."

Following the above logic, it means that global integration among nations is needed to strengthen every participating "alliance" state in strengthening itself. Through this power, various threats from ISIS can be observed much early. In the area of publicity, the global integration would be brave to show themselves to anyone who is considered to be the ISIS element that in this part of the world, there are many elements of global power who are not afraid of dealing with all sorts of terrorism, including ISIS.

The alliance of these countries also reinforces the urgency of global unity as the embodiment of multilateral political relations among nations and countries which recognize and progress reality and rationality-plurality on earth to be accepted by the global community as an asset to strengthen and uphold the commitment to maintain world peace from ISIS attacks.

If terrorism continues to act in this part of the world, it indicates that terrorism forces are more progressive and it can be categorized as successful in running the cadre, including in formulating strategic strengthening and organizational development in the global community.

The alliance of states is to prove that they show the world community that facing ISIS must have a militant in response to ISIS's propaganda, threats, or cunning.

Andre Colin mentioned that "*the fearful nation should not be free and have no right to freedom. Fear is a very fraudulent advisor for independence.*" (Ari, 2017). This statement actually reminds every element of the nation or subject of any country to not maintain a psychological illness named small guts to face ISIS challenges or threats.

If a person or a number of people is mentally fainthearted, they are no longer worthy of getting the right to independence, because with this fear, they have actually surrendered their power as an element of a colonized nation and deserved to lose continuously, including to be hegemonic and defeated in perpetuity by ISIS.

2.4. From WTC to Surabaya

This nation, though having been tested many times by various terrorism perforations, should not be mentally fainthearted. This nation must be powerful to maintain its identity as a nation which loves independence and unity, and not as a nation which provides an escape for radicality and terrorism.

The case of terrorism in Surabaya is considered by many to be associated with ISIS. Although this is assumed to be part of ISIS's product, this case should not make Indonesians show a cowardly mentality. It should even be a challenge that Indonesians never subsided, let alone hide themselves from the crowd.

Each of the subjects in the society must reinforce psychological resilience and expand rationality that ISIS

comes from the society and carries on its actions in the society. If its actions make the nation elements run and hide, this nation will be the object of ISIS and the international community mocks.

ISIS can either blast bombs or create chaos with suicide bombings wherever and whenever it wants. Every element of society cannot always be vigilant or cannot supervise all sectors of life and national life activities. There are always particular vulnerable points in which ISIS can take advantage of.

Bomb explosions or radicalistic movements that occurred in Surabaya have also occurred in several other parts of the world, which indicates that terrorists can choose to create radical action in accordance with the target.

People of the United States will never forget the case of September 11, 2001. This year was one of the symbols of the US progress. The World Trade Center (WTC) twin towers collapsed because of terrorist suicide acts committed by crashing two hijacked commercial aircrafts.

Along with the action against the WTC, part of the Pentagon building also hit the plane. The tragedy that made the US ashamed was still closed with the crash of United Airlines plane in Pennsylvania. All of these events are “terrorist” products created to show the world that terrorists will never stop their actions.

In addition, the movement of terrorist radicalism at least could open the eyes of the people on earth that the radical movement terrorists do, including ISIS who do have the strengths reliably, cannot easily be traced with certainty. Terrorists can launch attacks on various targets they want.

Terrorism can arise from places or conditions that are not predicted by society and security forces. Somewhere like in big cities in Indonesia that is considered as the safest area and the barometer of world security, can also be torn apart by the power of terrorism.

Therefore, any element of the nation, regardless of religion, ethnicity, culture, education, or a group of any status must show its vigilance and courage wherever it may be to close any possible spaces which can be used as a tool, place or part of a strategy launched by terrorists (ISIS).

III. Conclusion

ISIS's success in gaining followers is evaluated by many as being independent of its ability to build global communications, especially in spreading the doctrine and performing radicalistic movements such as the bombings which intimidate the international community. Each core strength within ISIS continually strives to influence the world or the international community through a communicating strategy which, among other things, makes a party or a host of parties acknowledge its existence, especially towards the understanding and belief in the doctrine and realization of its movements.

In response to the phenomenon, any Muslim community or nation on earth should not be afraid of facing the ISIS. Their movements do deliver a message which brings a horror to the world but the power of a civilized nation or who loves harmony and peace cross-culturally, religiously and psychologically is very much stronger than the ISIS's power.

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