



Motives and Behaviours of Violent Extremist Groups (Part 2)

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Introduction

Throughout the month of May, SEAN-CSO’s campaign continued to focus on the theme of Motives and Behaviours of Violent Extremist Groups. In the words of the United Nations Development Programme, “violent extremism is fueled in large part by exclusion, lack of opportunity, human rights abuses, grievances, and lack of confidence in state authorities, including security forces.” This month we researched and examined such factors and their impact on the ways in which extremist ideologies take root in different Southeast Asian countries.



Webinar: Positive Contributions of Madrasahs & Ulama to PCVE in Southern Thailand

In the late afternoon of May 27th, IMAN Research and SEAN-CSO co-hosted a webinar titled: Positive Contributions of Madrasahs and Ulama to Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism in Southern Thailand. The talk was moderated by Dr. Ahmad El Muhammady from the Global Peace Institute at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). The two guest speakers were Dr. Amporn Marddent from the Center of Excellence on Women and Social Security (CEWSS) at Walailak University in Thailand and Dwi Rubiyanti (Ruby) Kholifah, the Country Representative from The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) Indonesia.

Dr. Marddent discussed how institutions such as madrasahs contribute to society in Thailand. She explained that there are many pondok and madrasahs throughout the country. There are also about 2083 Tadika (Taman Didikan Kanak-Kanak) which are foundational Islamic schools for children. Young people will study there at night or on weekends in the school and the mosque nearby. They read the Quran,

learn the core principles of Islam, and obtain foundational Islamic knowledge. Historically, these schools have been important to the Malay-Muslim community and many families enroll their children there. These sites of education play a key role in providing religious instruction and deepening the community’s understanding of Islam. This is particularly important in Thailand, as Muslims are a minority in the nation.



Ruby Kholifah discussed the role of the pondok or pesantren in the context of Indonesia. She explained that during the Dutch colonial period, Indonesians who were unable to afford or access education were drawn to the pesantren school system. It became very political and part of the resistance to the foreign school structure. Furthermore, these institutions provided education which was more in touch with religion and local cultures.

Ruby then went to share about the Kongres Ulama Perempuan Indonesia (KUPI)/Indonesian Women's Ulama Congress, which held their first meeting in the city of Cirebon, in April 2017. The meeting involved many women ulama who have worked to solve societal problems both in their communities and beyond. Ruby explained that promoting gender equality from the perspective of Islam in Indonesia was first discussed in the 1980s. KUPI draws upon those original sentiments and pushes for a progressive Islam that protects women's rights and argues that a

democracy without women's rights is not a democracy. Furthermore, the organization asserts that women can and should be ulama, based on historical evidence and foundational Islamic texts, and advocates for a reclamation of space by women ulama in all contexts, such as education, development, and peacebuilding.

Both speakers acknowledged that there is so much more to be said on the topic than can fit into a one-hour webinar, but that ultimately madrasahs and pesantren are critically important in the societies that they exist in. They provide such a rich body of knowledge and interpretation that many people would not have access to otherwise. However, as both speakers addressed, there is also room for growth, especially given the current global challenges the world is facing. As the progressive Islam movement grows and organizations like KUPI continue to make headway, it will be interesting to see how that shapes and potentially expands what is taught in these Islamic institutions.



Research: Motives and Behaviours of Violent Extremist Groups in Australia and Singapore

In the last few years, Australia and Singapore have seen violent attacks inspired by extremism and political motivation. Australia is grappling with ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and Levant) propaganda and recruitment agenda targeting young people, while Singapore faces security threats when it comes to extreme ideology and its inspired attacks.





Australia

Gun Shooting in Sydney, 2015

Curtis Cheng, an unarmed police civilian finance worker of New South Wales Police Force, was shot to death in 2015. Farhad Khalil Muhammad, the 15-year-old shooter, was exposed to the extremist view of Hizbut Tahrir.

Upon committing the attack, Farhad Muhammad was fatally shot by the police in the area. Since the attack, four other men have been charged in relation to this case for providing firearms.

Sources:

Mitchell, Georgina (4 October 2015). "Parramatta shooting: Teen gunman Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar's alleged links to extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir". Sydney Morning Herald. Retrieved 6 June 2021.

Knife stabbing in Melbourne, 2018

Hassan Khalif Shire Ali set his car on fire and stabbed three people in Melbourne city center. Malaspina, aged 74, died from the stabbing, while two other victims aged 58 and 24 survived.

Ali was fatally shot by Victoria Police and died on the scene. Prior to the attack, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation believed he was planning to go to Syria and join ISIL and cancelled his passport. Ali was also known to the federal intelligence agencies, although he was not monitored.

Sources:

Henriques-Gomes, Luke (10 November 2018). "What we know so far - Bourke Street attack: police say Melbourne CBD terror assailant had links to Islamic State - latest updates". The Guardian. Retrieved 6 June 2021.

Singapore

Mosques attack in Singapore, 2020

A 16-year-old boy was arrested in November 2020 for plotting attacks at two mosques in Singapore. Inspired by the 2019 Christchurch mosque attack in New Zealand, the perpetrator purchased a tactical vest to put his phone in and broadcast the attack.

Although no firearm purchase was recorded, he had written two manifestos praising the Christchurch bomber, outlining the danger of Islam, and reject pacifism.

Source:

Lim, Min Zhang (27 January 2021). "16-year old Singaporean detained under ISA for planning terror attacks on two mosques". The Straits Times. Archived from the original on 27 January 2021. Retrieved 06 June 2021

Embassies attack plots in Singapore, 2001

Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) planned to bomb the diplomatic missions and attack personnels from Australia, the UK, Israel, and the USA in Singapore. These targets would include embassy personnels and US Navy and their families.

During the raid, Singapore authorities found documents of the attack plots, targets' photographs and surveillance, as well as fake passports and forged immigrations documents. The attack was uncovered through an informant for the Internal Security Department of Singapore. 15 people were arrested within a month and another 26 people were detained between 2002-2005 following further investigation.

Source:

Jeremy Zakis, and Steve Macko (12 January 2002). "Major Terrorist Plot in Singapore Discovered; al-Qaeda Believed Well Established in the Asian Region". EmergencyNet News. Archived from the original on 4 November 2007. Retrieved 06 June 2021



Member Highlights

Center for the Study of Islam and Social Transformation at Universitas Islam Negeri, Sunan Kalijaga

from Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The Center for Islamic Studies and Social Transformation (CISForm) is a research institution at Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University (UIN). **As highlighted on their website, CISForm’s main objective “is to develop interdisciplinary research and study real-life issues within the context of Indonesian Islam, particularly in relation to the ongoing process of social transformation modes.** The pace of modernization and globalization accompanied by shifts in rationality and solidarity has opened up various opportunities for social, economic, and cultural progress.” Additionally, “CISForm pays close attention to the diversity of social problems that haunt a wide range of Muslim societies in Indonesia, such as poverty, underdevelopment and violence.”



CIS Form regularly publishes books, journals, and other academic works that are disseminated both nationally and internationally. Furthermore, the center often collaborates with other academic institutions, NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations. These networks are mutually beneficial for all parties involved.



Workshop on Preparation of CISForm Research Instruments at UIN Sunan Kalijaga (source: <http://cisform.uin-suka.ac.id/id/video/>)

CISForm’s main goal of focusing on contemporary themes that are academically and socially relevant include the following three aims:

1. Produce research which “aims to promote interdisciplinary studies on Islam and social transformation in Indonesia related to various phenomena that develop in Indonesian Muslim society, especially radicalism, deradicalization, issues of sharia, Islamic education, Muslim youth culture, the environment and natural disasters, Islam and local politics, religious governance, and social theology.
2. Provide education and assistance for the Indonesian Muslim community and facing the dynamics and challenges associated with modernity, globalization, community development programs, and the spread of progressive Islamic values.
3. Publish works that disseminate the results of Islamic social transformation research and progressive Islamic values in the form of books, booklets, newsletters, and papers.

To learn more about CISForm’s amazing work, check out their;

Websites: cisform.uin-suka.ac.id

Facebook: Cisform Uin Sunan Kalijaga

Instagram: @cisform.uinsuka

YouTube channel: Cisform Uinsuka



The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)

from Indonesia

The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) Indonesia, is a non-profit organization based in Jakarta. As highlighted on their website, “AMAN Indonesia strives to create a religious culture that encourages peace, maintains tolerance and is committed to gender justice through the four pillars of the movement’s strategy.”

The four pillars are as follows:

- Women Led Community Resilience
- Consolidation of Progressive Voices
- Peace Oriented and Gender Sensitive Policy Advocacy
- Spread of Islamic Progressive Values

In the fourteen years since its inception, AMAN Indonesia has served as a pioneer in peace education for interfaith women. It has also helped create community through women’s groups and partakes in national and international advocacy work related to women and peace and security. AMAN Indonesia regularly collaborates with stakeholders, networks, online media channels, and government institutions and has published several books, reports, policy briefs, and other works. Overall, the organization is dedicated to engaging in active collaboration in order to promote human dignity and social justice.



Sekolah Perempuan Perdamaian (source: amanindonesia.org/what-we-do/ketahanan-komunitas-oleh-perempuan/



AMAN Indonesia has developed several learning models for policies and programs related to women’s empowerment in the context of peaceful development.

- Conflict Transformation Model by Women, a conflict transformation formula drawn from a combined approach of grassroots peace education and organizing that can spur more rapid societal change.
- Social Transformation Model by Women, is a model of change in society driven by organized women’s groups.
- Community-Based Women’s Peace Education Model, involves regular learning every week for at least two years, and results in a cadre of reliable women leaders.
- Local, national, and international linking is a working pattern with the best cycle, where learning from grassroots communities becomes national and international advocacy feeding.

To learn more about CISForm’s amazing work, check out their;

Websites: amanindonesia.org

Facebook: AsianMuslimActionNetwork

Instagram: @amanindonesia

YouTube channel: AMAN Indonesia

SEAN-CSO's New Library and Website

We are excited that we will be releasing the new version of the website! Many months in the making, this website will be accessible, user-friendly, and contains a digital library that includes all the latest information from our network. You will find all of our newsletters, interviews, infographics, various educational resources, and connect with respective members. **Coming soon!**

www.sean-cso.org



Updates

- SEAN-CSO currently *has*



- All SEAN-CSO social media is *followed by*



- SEAN-CSO posts focused on PVE *receive*



Funding Opportunity

.ORG Impact Awards

- ▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-ORGImpactAwards

NOFO Counter Crime

- ▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-NOFOCounterCrime

Call for proposal: Conflict and Climate Change Challenge for Peace Building

- ▶ bit.ly/SEANCSO-Europa01

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 [@sean.cso](https://www.instagram.com/sean.cso)

Synergy in Harmony

Walk together for a better world



This update has been brought to you by SEAN-CSO in collaboration with Peace Generation Indonesia.

Would you like to be featured in the next SEAN-CSO Newsletter or in our upcoming social media campaign?

If you have stories, research, or programs focused on Preventing or Countering Violent Extremism, contact us at:

sean-cso@peacegen.id