

Countering the Threat of Transnational Terrorism Against Border Security Indonesia

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Abstract – This paper describes how the government efforts in dealing with the issue of terrorism as a severe threat of transnational border security in Indonesia. So far, the groups of terrorist have been utilising the border areas to reinforce their existence by doing a people smuggling, war exercises, and various other illegal activities. Based on the research that the authors did through literature and interview methods, it is found that either in the domestic, regional, and international level, the government has tried to improve the management of borders in the modern era. On another aspect, the government is also trying to increase the power of the social, political, security and economic issues. Even in the era of President Jokowi, the government is trying to release policies for strengthening maritime security maritime and an increasing number of trades including in border areas. Also, the effort of cooperation with neighbouring countries, such as Malaysia and Australia, continue to be done by making various deals and efforts to ensure border security. However, some of the issues facing the region about Indonesia, a high level of human mobility, and Indonesia existence as an archipelago with many limitations in the facilities and security system.

Keywords – Terrorism, Transnational, Border, Security and Countering.

I. INTRODUCTION

The terrorist is not a new issue, but it has been happening for a long time. However, post-September 11 attacks 2001, relative high intensities of the individual or group attacks have caused significant impacts towards international politics. With the global war against terrorism announced by the United States of America, any of various countries involved, including Indonesia. However, America guarantee that its military would be sent to Indonesia [1]

So far, Indonesia is rated as one of the nuclear attacks of terrorism due to several factors, among them are the strategic position, the number of the Muslim majority, and the structure of the security guarantees which is not so strict giving the opportunity to terrorist networks to move from one place to another quickly. Therefore, some of the attacks had occurred within quite a short time distance.

The interesting issue is not only the fact that the attacks occurred in various regions of Indonesia, but also the fact that the perpetrators of the terrorist attack, have networks, ideology, and the transnational nature of the movement [2]. Between an attack with other attacks and one group with other groups have linkages.

Moreover, we live in an era of globalisation with modern facilities of transport and communication. To understand their movements and deployment, a network of terrorists had already developed their movement making

them could leave their movements, even speeding the country's boundaries.

Therefore the issue of the border got significant influence related to security threats. So far, the various crimes occurred in the borders likely to be used by terrorist groups to achieve their interests. Thus, this paper will answer the question, how are the countering efforts of the government to face the transnational terrorism relates to its effect on border security threats in Indonesia?

To answer these questions, then firstly, the issue of terrorism in Indonesia and transnational threats that appear towards the issue of border security will be elaborated. Following this part, the writer also will explain the countering efforts conducted by the government, domestically and externally. In an attempt to facilitate the analysis and a deep understanding of the issue, then the concept of terrorism and transnational border security will be used.

II. THE CONCEPT OF TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM AND BORDER SECURITY

Transnational terrorism is violence or unlawful acts committed by a network of International groups in an attempt to reach their political interests in different parts of the world. Therefore, when an attack, it is not rare that they make the location target which will cause more victims from different countries so that the effect of the attack they do will also be more extensive.

For example, the WTC in the incident at least stated that victims from over 80 countries [3]. Thus, through just one attack in one location, the terrorists were able to attract the attention of people from different parts of the world. They arrive at their target to be widely publicised and engender a feeling threatened to the population in various countries.

Therefore, in conducting the movement, transnational terrorism tends to involve members from various countries having a similar ideology. They are connected through a variety of means especially in this modern era to reach the same interests. If terrorism is linked to the ideology of nationalism, then they will be connected with other nationalist ideology. With the same condition happen to other ideologies such as Marxism, nihilism, separatism and particular religious beliefs.

So far, some of the data shows that the movement of transnational terrorism is experiencing increased significantly due to developments in communication and transportation tools in the era of globalisation. Though at first, some assess that globalisation is a symbol of openness of modern society, economically the conditioned living of people are also better. However, reality happened

shows that terrorism is evolving due to the availability of facilities for transnational moving [4].

Moreover, with many modern amenities, they even can efficiently transact online, spread the idea in the mass, and connect with other movements are more leisurely. Even based on some data, though the attack they do in quantity could be experiencing a reduction, it just regards quality is much more harmful compared to the era before the appearance of cyber terrorism [5].

About the issue of border security, transnational terrorism movement is often rated as one of the critical factors that often disrupt security by adopting all the chances of crime in border areas. Regarding border security USA and Mexico for example, there are indications that transnational terrorism is playing and put the people illegally from different countries like China, India, Albania and some Middle Eastern Countries [6]. Such condition ultimately led to the American Government felt the scrutiny against border area from infiltrating terrorist groups has not been optimal can be done.

In a simple to understand the issues of border security, border security is defined as the limit of the territory that separates between one location and the other countries by an agreed of the imaginary line [7]. Therefore, the country needs to do securitisation toward this area especially for those who geographically have smaller size compared to its neighbour countries. In the regional political issues, the nearest neighbour of a country can be the most dangerous enemy.

However, in the implementation, the debate is still going on about the meaning of the control of the borders either it should be concerned on geographically or substantially issues. Some argued that if it is still stuck with the territorial nature of the approach, then the process for making in securitisation issues border will be done in a more militaristic. However, regarding the issue of transnational terrorism, the most affected factor in the movement of transnational terrorism is related to the issue of territorial borders.

III. THE ISSUE OF TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM AND BORDER SECURITY IN INDONESIA

Talking about the issue of terrorism is an old issue in the politics of Indonesia. Moreover, some argued that the potential occurrence of terrorism movement had developed long-range interactions through an international network. The networks are increasingly daring shows their identity following the Indonesian reformation giving more freedom in various aspects of public life.

The issue of transnational terrorism cannot be segregated from the strategic position of Indonesia in international politics, including the network's ideology that had developed. Moreover, the political condition of post-1998 reforms in Indonesia opened up opportunities for the expansion of the range of freedom in expressing themselves, political positions and beliefs.

The prominent momentum of terrorism is a post-September 11, 2001 attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon making the issue of terrorism spread to various countries. In Indonesia, this issue gives a great influence since the Bali bombing on October 12, 2002, which killed 202 people. Jama'ah Islamiah as a network of international terrorism claimed themselves as the most responsible group making the government gives extra attention to solve these issues [8].

In this case, some of the factors that led to the rise of terrorism in various other countries rated the same as the developments in Indonesia, which is still many factors going into the question of the economic, social, cultural, and political. With the opening of transnationalism regarding the transmission of the idea, then the development of terrorism that occurred in other countries and regions will also give leverage to be adopted in Indonesia [9].

Especially in this era, the development of the network of international terrorism already had the excellence technology and had militant cadres and make Southeast Asia as a critical front. Even the issue of terrorism in this area is rated as the second post-conflict security issue of Indochina [10]. So far Indonesia even as central – especially post-Reformation and attack October 12, 2002, is an area that gets significant influence within the network of transnational terrorism.

In carrying out the action and movement, some of the things done by the Group of terrorism became a threat to the security of the border. Among the few things that have happened often is people smuggling, drug trafficking, war exercises and various other illegal activities. For the terrorist groups, the area of the border is a critical path to launch their movement.

Among the essential actors in a network of terrorism that developed in Indonesia is Al Qaeda. This movement is inseparable from the history of the invasion was carried out by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in 1979. Osama Bin Laden chairs the organisation since the year 1988 is growing to fight against the Soviet Union that votes would threaten Afghanistan's Islamisation [10]. Those who returned were involved in the war in Afghanistan ended up taking the same mission in Indonesia.

Also, another actor who could not be considered trivial in the transnational terrorism in Indonesia is Jama'ah Islamiyah. Abdullah Sungkar and Abu Bakr Ba'ashir initiated this organisation as they moved to Malaysia. At that point, they began to approach with a variety of groups is alumni of Afghanistan. When it was felt strongly, the Jama'ah Islamiyah was declared since 1993 with the aim to establish an Islamic State under the leadership of Abdullah Sungkar [11].

Finally in 1998, post-reform in Indonesia, Abu Bakr Ba'ashir returned to Indonesia and started to spread his ideology and Islamic understanding. After the death of Abdullah Sungkar even since the year 2002 sd 2002, Abu Bakr Ba'ashir became the central leader of Jama'ah Islamiyah. Even at the same time, considering he has already started to have an understanding of the differences with some members of the Jama'ah Islamiyah, he set up

another institution called the Assembly of Indonesia Mujahidin (MMI) which finally survived until the year of 2008. To be accepted in a society, the two movements also did various social activities such as helping the poor, treat the sick, and provide means of informal education [12].

As with the previous two movements, MMI evolved into institutions, Abu Bakr Ba'ashir founded the Jama'ah Anshorul Tawheed (JAT) in 2008. Abu Bakr Ba'ashir initially led this movement, but then he handed it to Dulmatin. This motion intends to enforce Sharia in Indonesia. In its development, it has the equation with ISIS. The background indicated that JAT's involvement in the search for funding support for ISIS [13].

On the same occasion, Ja'far Umar Thalib who is an elder in the Salafi movement of Indonesia in January 2000 established the Laskar Jihad. The emergence of this movement is effected by the failure of the government of Indonesia in resolving social conflicts which occurred in Ambon. Through this movement, Ja'far Umar Thalib wanted to defend the Muslims who are in the Maluku. Most of those who joined in this movement are the alumni of jihad in Afghanistan, including Ja'far Umar Thalib [14].

In fact, there are still some other terrorist networks that developed in Indonesia. Their ideologies and movements are connected not only with local movements, but also the international network. The purpose of this group spreading the terrorism is to obtain their political interest. Sometimes the targets being the victims are the people coming from different countries.

Thus, the issue of border security in Indonesia has also evolved into ASEAN issues. Some of the issues which are the issues of drug trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering, transnational prostitution, piracy, arms smuggling, credit card fraud, and corruption. These issues have turned out to be a very tight linkage with transnational issues of terrorism. Various issues are often used as a stage for the next crimes by terrorist groups to strengthen their existence.

Therefore, the area that gets less stringent supervision in Indonesia is often used for various illegal acts, including terrorism group. When looking for funding, the border region is often used as a means of conducting trade. Likewise, to consolidate their planned actions, they used the less controlling area to move the weapon from one place to another place, for example, the Mindanao border with Indonesia [15].

IV. THE POLICY OF INDONESIAN COUNTERING TERRORISM

About the various border security-related issues that are related to the issue of terrorism as described above, the government of Indonesia has conducted numerous attempts. The program was undertaken by the government based on the principle of the government of Indonesia to participate in maintaining world peace described in the Constitution of Indonesia. The influence of terrorism had a considerable influence on the assessed interfere with the stability of the security community.

In its implementation, the government has adopted several efforts already undertaken in various regions and other countries. For example, between America and the European Union, they have done a deal to control the exit sign in the border State, for instance, by implementing the aggressive and indispensable administrative approaches [16].

Moreover, some opinion says that with the geopolitical and strategic position of Indonesia, Indonesia is often used as a transit line of people coming and leaving Australia. Among the few places that are often visited by the immigrants who'd returned from Australia are Medan, Tanjung Pinang, Jakarta, Kupang and Puncak [17]. For the political and security reasons, such condition is dangerous to the security of Indonesia.

There is a possibility that those illegal immigrants could join or utilised terrorism movement since they are in hard living condition. While they were asked either they would still come to Indonesia, or no, if Indonesian law would punish them, most of those people did not concern on this issue.

However, in Indonesia, there is facilities and infrastructure limitation to support the optimisation of the performance of officers to solve this border problem. Moreover, for a long time, Indonesian border areas with neighbouring countries tended to be the marginalised and backward area of the development.

Therefore, the government of Indonesia has also been trying to improve the management of borders in this current time. In a long time, even since the year 1900, the borders region of Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as Singapore have become migration routes. In Malaysia, the Indonesian migrants are the third-largest after China and India since their arrival in Malaysia is in significant numbers [18]. Most of them were initially moved for work, but because it is already survived for several generations, not a few of their descendants eventually migrated to citizenship.

In general, the issue of migration is not a problem as well as they moved to another country in legal procedure. However, in some cases, many of them moved illegally. It becomes the concern in recent developments when the issue of terrorism emerges since the terrorist groups could infiltrate them.

About the development, in the aspect of the border, the government has already started giving and providing better attention. A variety of public facilities has already begun, for example, markets and shops took to provide the necessities of the community. Moreover, the government also has improved the infrastructures and military strength.

The efforts made this government may be categorised as the government efforts to increase the power of the social, political, security and economic issues. Thus, the government has a robust political legitimacy before the people. Likewise, regarding national interest, at least the government will be able to improve further the nationalism that exists in the community. Because if seen from the causes of emerging and growing terrorism, it cannot also release from a variety of social, economic, cultural, and political issues that have been emerged [19].

Even in the era of President Jokowi, the government attempted to implement a policy of strengthening maritime security and an increasing number of trades including in border areas. According to Jokowi, Indonesia as the archipelago country has a considerable potential to develop the sea for the sake of the national interest of the nation. If it cannot appropriately manage, this border and sea areas will be the issue of the conflict to the detriment of Indonesia [20].

With this policy, the government intends to intensify the activities and existence of the border area so that it does not quickly become a means of an exit sign in various illegal groups which includes those who are affected by the terrorist groups. The government also began to intensify surveillance efforts on the border (border surveillance) though not yet optimally utilise advanced technology. Some border areas have been already placed a variety of military power within a certain distance.

Also, the government has conducted policy regarding prevention of illegal finance done by terrorist movements. Some indications suggest that some terrorist movements that evolved from funding sources get *infak* or tuition given by its members by their respective capabilities. An enormous amount thus comes from the involvement of business groups that are sympathetic to them [21].

It is just that the various policies of the domestics have been done as mentioned above is not enough to deal with the issue of terrorism in Indonesia. The new issue has emerged since the transnational networks of terrorism involve not only the local groups and ideologies but also has connections to the terrorist groups in various countries. Because of that, the realisation that the handling of the issue of terrorism cannot only be done internally but instead the government needs to involve a multilateral process should be improved [22].

Not only Indonesia, even America as a big country claiming to be the world's policeman cannot work alone to handle the issue of terrorism. With the Bush's statement as former American President, either you are with us, or you are with the real American terrorist, it showed that America was trying to do multilateral efforts, accumulating strength to combat world terrorism. [23].

As a form of implementation, the government of Indonesia started to develop intensively in cooperation with neighbouring countries, such as Malaysia and Australia. Various agreements and efforts to ensure the security of their borders created, so for the border area cannot be used by the terrorist groups to strengthen themselves. Moreover, for Australia, this cooperation is very strategic since the citizens of Australia several times had been the victims in the attack of terrorism in Indonesia, for example, happened in the events of 2002 Bali bombing [24].

Furthermore, with ASEAN regionalism the government has agreed on the collaboration to do intelligence sharing, joint training of law enforcement, and attempts to standardise the meaning of terrorism. With the power of this regionalism, it is expected that the efforts to combat transnational terrorism will be more optimally performed. Meanwhile, there are still many differences of opinion

occurred and the ego of each country in the resolution of the security issues [25].

V. CONCLUSION

Based on some of the above description, it looks that the government has already made many efforts to combat transnational terrorism, both domestically and externally. In domestic, some policies have been done by the government were the military and administrative control in the border areas, improvement of the management of the border to prevent the illegal trafficking, strengthening the political power and finance countering policy. Moreover, for the external efforts, the government has built some collaboration works, particularly with neighbouring countries.

However, in the implementation, there are still some challenges faced by the government of Indonesia. Among some of these challenges are the large and archipelago form of Indonesia making the government did not easy to control a vast area. Moreover, in the region, the human mobility within the area is very high. Since Indonesia has limited facilities to control all the regions, terrorist groups have significant opportunity to use the border area to launch their action.

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