

OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL- AMCHAM SECURITY COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR MAY 2010

Committee Developments:

Dave Potter has stepped down as chair of OSAC, and William Reed Rising has replaced him in the position. Brian Campbell Watters will remain as vice chair. Brian Millen, Coordinator of Asia Pacific Security and Crisis Management for GE, has graciously accepted our invitation to become vice chair.

Security Issues Raised at AMCHAM Services Committee Meeting:

The OSAC Chair attended the AMCHAM Services Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 27, which included discussion of security issues in Indonesia. The term “mob-ocracy” has been coined to describe the impact that groups are having in exerting their will on others. Examples of some of these incidents are listed below in the incidents report.

Other concerns discussed:

- Continuing incidents of crimes against women (typically) using taxis, which appear to be concentrated in the areas of Jl. Sudirman, Jl. Thamrin, Kuningan and Pasaraya/Blok M.
- There will be 244 local elections held over the next 8 months, although there is no indication of any issues related to these.
- Credit card fraud continues to be a challenge, and credit card holders are encouraged to check their statements for charges they may not have made. Consumers' credit card data are being downloaded at restaurants and used for local purchases.
- White collar fraud cases are increasing in sophistication and complexity. Companies are encouraged to retain controls in regards to banking transactions, including having the bank notify a senior manager regarding transactions over a certain amount. Some companies have decided to relax this measure, exposing them to significant financial risk.
- Bali police have increased patrols after the release of “Cowboy in Paradise”, a documentary about surfers and prostitution. The patrols have been noticed by tourists there, although there is no evident impact on tourism.

OSAC Meeting on Tuesday, May 3:

The guest speaker of this meeting was Nasir Abas, a former terrorist trainer and member of Jemaah Islamiyah. The meeting began at 0740 and was attended by approximately 58 people; it ended at 0915. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rising; Mr. Watters was unable to attend the meeting due to business commitments.

Mr. Abas gave an autobiographical account of his early years, his recruitment into extremist work in Malaysia, his six years of training and work in Afghanistan, his training of terrorists in the Philippines, his assignment as a commander of JI in Indonesia, his capture and decision to redeem himself by working to convince arrested terrorists to return to a non-violent life.

He stated that he had never supported Osama bin-Laden's 2000 call to attack civilian targets, and split with Hambali at that point. He was arrested after the 2002 Bali bombings because he was a member of JI, and spoke movingly about his “empat mata” meeting with a police commander who convinced him to begin to do good deeds in his life. While he now works to convert arrested terrorists to a non-violent life, he indicated the recidivism rate for released terrorists is high because when released from custody they rarely have active support networks aside from former “colleagues” who are jihadists. (Separately, Mr. Jeff Lischke, Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy, told me the embassy is developing support programs for such individuals to reduce recidivism.

Overall, Mr. Abas was articulate and retained the attention of the audience. Following his talk and after answering questions for about 30 minutes, Mr. Rising gave some closing remarks and then turned the floor over to Mr. Lischke presented Mr. Abas with a plaque of appreciation.

Feedback from the meeting indicates it was well received by the participants and could easily have been extended for another 30 minutes for additional questions.

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Summary of Security-Related Issues throughout Indonesia

The following information was compiled from information submitted by AGI, Hill & Associates, and other media sources. OSAC is greatly appreciative of their contributions.

TERRORISM

- **17 April – Weapons and Ammunition Cache Discovered in Aceh Besar:** Police found ammunition and a rifle magazine allegedly discarded by suspected terrorists in the Cidop Krueng Lintang protected forest in Aceh Besar on Saturday 17 April. They released four suspects who had been arrested there after finding no evidence linking them to terrorism.
- **20 April – Sentencing of Saefudin Zuhri:** South Jakarta District Court sentenced Saefudin Zuhri to eight years in prison for harboring Noordin M. Top last year. The court heard that Zuhri found a rented house for Noordin in Banyumas regency in Central Java and arranged a meeting between Noordin and Abdulrahman Taib, a member of the so-called "Palembang Gang" who has since been convicted. A bomb threat was made against the court during the evening of Tuesday 20 April, but a subsequent search by the police bomb disposal unit yielded nothing.
- **20 April – ICG warns Against Complacency over Terrorism:** Indonesia should not grow complacent after breaking up a new terror group led by a most-wanted militant because intelligence on extremist groups in the country remains weak and corruption continues to aid terrorist operations, a report by the International Crisis Group (ICG) said. A review of the activities of the so-called Aceh group showed that corruption continues to be a "lubricant" for terrorist activities, the ICG said.
- **26 April – Police Crackdown on Terrorists in Aceh:** The elite police counter terrorism squad launched a crackdown on suspected terrorists, referring to networks linked to the recent arrests of suspects conducting paramilitary training in Aceh's remote Jalin Jantho region. They include members of Jemaah Islamiyah, extremist groups and activists wanting to establish an Islamic state in Indonesia. Another police source linked the operation to the recent murder of two police officers in Purworejo, Central Java on 11 April. Police believe that the murders were committed to avenge the deaths of terror suspects and the Bali bombers.
- **27 April – 10-year Sentence Demanded for Aris Susanto:** Prosecutors at the South Jakarta District Court demanded a ten-year sentence for Aris Susanto, accused of harboring Ibrohim and Noordin M. Top before and after the 17 July 2009 hotel bombings. Aris, 32, from the Central Java town of Temanggung, was as a member of Jemaah Islamiyah and Jamaah Anshorut Tauhid, founded and led by Abu Bakar Bashir. The recent arrests of terrorists indicate that the network has been severely weakened, former Jemaah Islamiyah member Nasir Abbas said on Thursday 29 April, citing to recent raids in Aceh.
- **29 April – Mine in Papua held at Ransom:** A group of 30 armed Papuans are holding a mine in Paniai ransom and have demanded the mine pay them Rp1 billion and 10 kgs of gold dust to lift their siege. The group is believed to be armed with AK 47s and other weapons, and there are reports it is being led by John Magay Yogi, the son of OPM activist Thadius Yogi. It is reported the siege has resulted in delay to local flights to the area. As of this writing, it is unclear whether this is an action by the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM) or a local dispute arising out of illegal mining activities, but Yogi's participation may confirm an OPM link.
- **1 May – Alleged Terrorists Arrested:** Detachment 88 and the Police Mobile Brigade arrested three men in Waikoli Village, Waisama District, Buru Selatan, Maluku. The police confiscated dozens of weapons and ammunitions. The police believe that these men probably are involved in a terrorist network.

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CIVIL UNREST, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

- **18 April – Residents Stop Construction of Mosque Over Terrorism Fears:** Residents halted the construction of a mosque in Sumenep, East Java, fearing it would be used for the grooming of terrorists.
- **19 April – Constitutional Court Rejects Blasphemy Law:** The Constitutional Court rejected a motion to annul the 1965 Blasphemy Law, saying it had no formal or material legal base for reviewing the law. Under the Constitution, six formal religions are recognized by the state: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholicism, Protestantism and Confucianism. The law makes it illegal to “publicize, recommend or organize public support” for non-orthodox versions of those six religions, but it does not prohibit followers of minor faiths, such as Sikhs. The Court increased security prior to announcing the verdict after an altercation broke out last month during a recess at the last hearing between followers of the hard-line Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) and lawyers for the petitioners.
- **22 April – Riot in Batam:** PT Drydocks World Graha, which manages a Dubai-owned dockyard company in Tanjung Uncang, Batam, Riau Islands province, resumed operations in phases starting May 5, following a riot there on 22 April. The riot began when an Indian supervisor allegedly made a derogatory remark to a local worker. The subsequent riot left about 20 cars belonging to company employees and warehouses damaged and six workers injured (some seriously), four of whom were Indian nationals. Chairman of the National Investment Board (BKPM) Gita Wiryawan denied reports that foreign investors were pulling out of the industrial island, stating that the incident was localized and did not reflect overall investment conditions there.
- **26 April – Resort Construction Destroyed by Mob:** Hundreds of residents grouped under the Puncak Muslim Community in Cibeurum village, Cisarua, Bogor regency set fire to facilities within a guest house compound belonging to the Christian Foundation BPK Penabur in protest at the planned construction of a there. They burned two cars. They said the foundation had violated an agreement that the site would be developed only for tourism and that no school or church would be built. Police were deployed to the scene and have managed to restore order. The area is close to the entrance to Safari Park (Taman Safari).
- **27 April – Road Blockaded in Ngada, East Nusa Tenggara:** Hundreds of people from Benteng Tawa Village, Riung Barat District, blockaded a road in Bakit area which borders with Sangan Kalo Village, Elar District, both in Ngada Regency, East Nusa Tenggara. The blockading was triggered by an unfinished land dispute between both villages. The people demanded the governor to come and conduct mediation with them.
- **28 April – Tribal Violence in Papua:** Two rival groups clashed yet another time in Kwamki Lama village in Timika regency, Papua, resulting in two residents being injured by arrows. The clash resulted from the death of a local who had been critically injured in a previous incident. Police were deployed to the scene and managed to restore order. The rival groups have continued their dispute, which began early in the year, despite a traditional peace ceremony which was held in late January. Authorities have increased their patrols.
- **29 April – Violent brawl in Riau:** Two people were killed during a violent brawl involving hundreds of members of two labor groups in Bagan Sinembah sub-district, Rokan Hilir regency, Riau province. Police deployed reinforcements and restored order.
- **29 April – Report on Religious Freedom:** Indonesia was among eight countries identified in the report as on a watch list of 13 countries that the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom named as serious violators of religious freedom. Indonesia has in the last six months seen a string of incidents where Muslim groups have protested or prevented the construction of churches, sometimes with violence and destruction. In a report released by an NGO at the beginning of the year, it was found that West Java province had seen more examples of religious intolerance than any other province surveyed in 2009.
- **1 May – Large Demonstrations in Several Cities:** Thousands of people held a demonstration at the East Java Governor Office in **Surabaya**; they demanded amendment of the social security system. Thousands of workers held a rally throughout the main roads in

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Boyolali, Central Java and ended up holding a demonstration at the Boyolali Regent office. They rejected the raising of electricity tariffs and outsourcing. Thousands of workers held a demonstration at the Central Java Governor's Office in **Semarang**, demanding an improvement in the working environment and rejecting outsourcing. Two students were reported to have been arrested during the action. Thousands of workers clashed with the police while demonstrating at the Bima Regent Office in **East Nusa Tenggara**. They threw stones at the police and one officer was reported to have been injured.

VIOLENT CRIME

- **22 April – Alleged Bali Child Rapist Arrested:** Police arrested Salvador da Costa, 28, the alleged rapist of a 9-year-old schoolgirl who was attacked at her own house the previous week. The police are still looking for other rapists.
- **30 April - Bank Robbery in Marelan, North Sumatra:** On Friday (30/4), six men robbed North Sumatra Bank in Marelan, North Sumatra. They came inside the bank with guns in their hands, threatening the customers and the employees. They took hundreds of million of rupiah and ran away to Langkat according to the police who are now investigating the case.
- **3 May - Robbery in Cirebon, West Java:** On 3 May two unidentified men driving a motorbike robbed two civil servants after they left a bank in Kesambi District, Cirebon, West Java. The victims had just collected money which was intended to pay the teachers' salaries in the district. The perpetrators chased the victims and shot them dead. The total loss was estimated to be Rp529 million.
- **4 May - Robbery in Batang, Central Java:** Early on 4 May a group of robbers robbed PT Imatek located in Batang Regency, Central Java. They assaulted two security guards with sharp weapons, one was reported to have died and the other badly injured. The total loss remains unknown and the police are still investigating the case.

NON-VIOLENT CRIME INCIDENTS AND ISSUES

- **Credit Card Fraud in Bali:** The police have arrested three members of a gang for "skimming" credit cards in Bali. The gang was skimming cards at electronic payment machines in restaurants and tourists spots in Bali. The gang targeted foreigners as they believed that their cards would have higher credit limits than local cards. After skimming and copying the cards the gang used the cards in Jakarta where they purchased high value items in crowded retail outlets such as Carrefour. The central bank estimates that the gang have defrauded card accounts to the tune of over half a million US dollars.

ROAD SAFETY INCIDENTS AND ISSUES

- **21 April – Container Truck Hijacked:** Three men armed with sharp weapons hijacked a container truck carrying bottled water by the thousands near the Karang Tengah toll gate in Tangerang on Wednesday 21 April, holding the driver and his assistant hostage before dumping them in Serang.

ENVIRONMENT

- Hundreds of people staged a demonstration in Aceh Besar regency on Monday 19, accusing PT Lhoong Setia Mining of damaging the environment and calling for its closure.
- The Bengkulu Provincial Natural Resources Conservation Agency revealed on Wednesday 21 April that plantations now occupied 75% out of 47,800 hectares of conservation forest in the province. The agency is cooperating with the regional prosecutor's office to prevent forest destruction.

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INDUSTRY, SHIPPING AND TRANSPORTATION

- **10 April – Tanker Boarded in Lawi-lawi Anchorage, East Kalimantan:** Robbers boarded a tanker by breaking open the hawse pipe cover. They entered the forecastle and stole ship equipment by breaking the lock on the booby hatch.
- **20 April – Crewmembers Hijack Vessel:** The Navy arrested eight crew members for hijacking a Taiwanese fishery vessel and murdering its captain off the coast of Banten on Tuesday 20 April. They are being detained at a naval base in the province.

DRUG AND NARCO-TERRORISM INCIDENTS AND ISSUES

- On Thursday 15 April, police raided a methamphetamine factory at the Pluit Timur housing complex in North Jakarta, arresting four suspects and seizing 46,000 ecstasy pills worth more than Rp6.7 billion (\$743,000), 385 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 17 kg of ketamine powder and related equipment.
- Police arrested a drug trafficking suspect, confiscating 242 kg of marijuana at his house in Bojonggede, East Jakarta on Monday 19 April. The arrest was made based on information from residents about suspicious activities at the house.
- Police discovered ecstasy pills and drug-making materials in a house used to manufacture drugs in the Villa Nusa Indah residences, Bogor on Wednesday 21 April, arresting 5 suspects.
- On Sunday 25 April, customs officers at the Adisutjipto Airport in Yogyakarta seized 2.6 kg of smuggled heroin worth Rp6.5 billion (\$730,000), arresting a Philippines national.
- On Monday 26 April, customs officers arrested an Indian national for attempting to smuggle four kg of ketamine worth Rp4 billion (\$460,000) via the Soekarno–Hatta International, a spokesman said on Tuesday 27 April, adding that 39 cases of attempted smuggling had been discovered at the airport since 2009.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

- A number of significant fires occurred last week. Fire ravaged the power generator in the basement of the Hijau Abadi Apartment building in Jl. Pangeran Antisari, Cilandak, South Jakarta on Sunday 18 April where South Korean nationals were holding a religious service. No injuries were reported.
- Four people were injured however when fire gutted hundreds of semi-permanent houses in Penjaringan, North Jakarta on Tuesday 20 April. Police attributed it to a gas cylinder explosion, of which there have been a number recently.

*Submitted by WRR
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