

**OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL JAKARTA COUNTRY COUNCIL  
AMCHAM SECURITY COMMITTEE, REPORT ON EVENTS IN MAY 2011  
Edited by William Reed Rising, Vice-Chair**

**Summary of Security-Related Issues throughout Indonesia**

The following selected information was compiled from local media sources and submissions by AGI, Hill & Associates, and media reports. We are deeply grateful to the contributors. This report contains information on a broad spectrum of security concerns and incidents which have occurred in Indonesia during the reporting period. Readers are advised that while there are security risks that companies and individuals need to be aware of, avoid or address, Indonesia is a country of over 230 million people living on 17,500 islands that stretch over 4,800 kms. The vast majority of foreign companies that operate in Indonesia, and expatriates who reside in or visit the country, do so without incident providing sensible security precautions are taken.

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**TERRORISM INCIDENTS AND ISSUES**

**Indonesia probes NII (Negara Islam Indonesia):** Indonesia is investigating a longstanding separatist group, now allegedly venturing into financial scams, amid claims the group may have hundreds of thousands of followers. The disruption of a attempted 150-kg bomb attack near a Jakarta church during Good Friday service renewed concerns over Negara Islam Indonesia (NII), or the Indonesian Islamic State. NII openly opposes Indonesia's secular state, seeking to replace it with an Islamic state, and has been outlawed since the 1950s.

Pepi Fernando, the alleged mastermind of the package bombs and the Good Friday attack, is a former NII member. Up to six of the suspected members of his cell were from a state-run Islamic university where NII is thought to have recruited followers. Attention has focused on the giant al-Zaytun boarding school, operating by cleric Abdussalam Panji Gumilang. There may be connections between Al Zaytun and the recently arrested students who attempted a bombing campaign at Easter.

A possible current terrorist threat stems from breakaway members of NII. NII itself now appears to be focused on fundraising and enriching its leaders. Nevertheless, NII represents a security threat to secular forces in the long-run. NII by its very existence stands in opposition to the secular state, indirectly branding all those who support it as reprobates and criminals. More importantly, if NII's numbers are as big as estimated, it may serve as the 'first tier' of a terrorist recruitment system, filtering radicals from the rest of the mostly-moderate population.

On 23 May police raided a safe house and confiscated a large amount of documents belonging to the NII movement. The house is located in Jl Nusa Indah, Ungaran, Semarang, Central Java. The raid was conducted in response to the NII's activities in West Java. Five NII members were arrested, one of whom is allegedly the NII governor for Central Java and Yogyakarta. They were detained by the police.

In response to reports regarding NII's influence in schools, Islamic boarding schools across Central Java have vowed to close their doors to a movement advocating the establishment of an Islamic state in Indonesia, says a leading cleric. A. Mustafa Bisri, a well-known religious leader from Rembang popularly known as Gus Mus, said on 8 May that the outlawed movement, the Indonesian Islamic State (NII), was directly opposed to the Pancasila state ideology. In Magelang, M. Yusuf Chudlori, who heads the Perguruan Islam boarding school in Tegalrejo, said an Islamic state would never work in Indonesia because of the country's rich history as a diverse archipelagic nation comprised of a multitude of ethnicities, races and religions. Meanwhile, Muhammad Ali, head of Ta'mirul Islam boarding school in Solo, said the NII movement was spreading *outside* of the boarding schools and not *within* them. Most of this is happening at public schools and universities that do not have a strong understanding of Islam, he said, adding that in his school, students are prohibited from having anything to do with the NII. Meanwhile Sarjono Kartosoewirjo, the son of Kartoeowirjo, the founder of the NII, says that the NII had ceased to exist in 1962 when his father instructed his followers to lay their arms, return to the Republic of Indonesia and accept the national ideology (Pancasila). He regards current groups claiming to be the NII as deviant organizations.

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**27 April – Abdullah Sonata gets 10-year sentence over Aceh training:** A Jakarta court sentenced Abdullah Sonata to a decade in prison after finding him guilty of involvement in a terrorism facility in Aceh province. “The panel found evidence of his various roles, starting from becoming the training camp leader, transporting the participants from Jakarta to Aceh, smuggling the weapons into the camp and providing financial assistance,” said judge Suhartoyo. The panel also found it was Mr. Sonata who had hidden prominent terrorist Dulmatin (shot to death by police last year) while he was still a fugitive. Mr. Sonata was arrested by Detachment 88, the police anti-terror squad, in June 2010, and also had plans to attack the Danish Embassy in Jakarta.

**Suicide Bombing of Police Mosque in Cirebon**

- On 2 May National Police arrested a man in Slawi, Central Java, for his alleged involvement in the suicide bomb attack carried out by M. Syarif at Adz-Dzikro Mosque in the Cirebon police compound in West Java. Police found a hand grenade in his belongings.
- On 3 May Detachment 88 collaborated with the Tegal Police on a raid on terror suspects in Pangkah District, Tegal Regency, Central Java. According to witnesses, Detachment 88 officers arrested a 40-year-old man.
- On 5 May police dredged a stretch of the Soka River near Cirebon in West Java, and found six bombs similar to the one used by the suicide bomber. Police believe the bombs were thrown off the bridge by someone involved in the attack and that they likely were to be used for additional suicide attacks.
- On 8 May Detachment 88 arrested three terrorists in Depok, West Java, suspected of being involved in M. Syarif’s network. Police confiscated weapons and ammunition from one of the suspects’ house.
- On 9 May National Police announced they had discovered a link between the Cirebon bombing and the Aceh terror group known as al Qaeda in Aceh. The bomb maker known as Endut, who is currently on the run from the police and who was responsible for constructing the bombs, had been trained by Hery Sigo Samboja known as Sogir. Sogir was arrested in June 2010 with Abdullah Sonata in Klaten and it is believed he was trained by Dr. Azahari Husin, the JI terror bomber, thus extending the linkage back to the JI terror organization.
- On 14 May Detachment 88 engaged in a shootout with two terrorists in Sanggrahan Village, Cemani District, Sukoharjo, Central Java. Both terrorists were killed in the shootout and it was revealed that one of them, Sigit Qurdowi, was the mentor of the Cirebon suicide bomber. Police raided Sigit’s house and found a video that showed him mentoring M. Syarif in assembling a bomb. Police confiscated guns, ammunitions, a grenade, and cash. A local noodle seller was accidentally killed in the cross fire. The following day, police confirmed Sigit was the leader of the terrorist network called Tauhid Wal Jihad, which was also responsible for several bomb attacks in Solo and Klaten in December 2010.
- On 17 May Detachment 88 arrested another terrorist alleged to be involved in the Cirebon network. The suspect, JM, was arrested at his house in Jl Adi Sumarno, Karanganyar, Central Java. It is believed that JM’s role in the network was as a gun and ammunition supplier. As of the end of the month, 16 alleged members of the Cirebon terrorist network had been identified, with 13 arrested and three killed, including the suicide bomber. On 19 May police said they were searching for 15 more explosive devices in connection with their ongoing investigation.
- Following revelations that M. Syarif was a member of JAT, police are considering additional charges against Abu Bakar Bashir connected to the Mosque suicide bombing. Police announced Syarif was personally sworn in to the JAT Group by Bashir in West Java in 2008.

**4 May – Suspected Bomb Package Found around West Sumatra Parliament Building:** A suspicious package was found near to the West Sumatra Parliament building, Padang City. The package was suspected to contain a bomb because it had some wires attached to it and stated Osama Bin Laden Atmojo Direjo. Gegana Police Team immediately secured the package and took it away for further examination.

**9 May – Bomb Threat at MetroTV:** A telephonic bomb threat was made against the Metro TV office in Jl Pilar Mas Raya, Kebon Jeruk, West Jakarta. The threat was received by the office re-

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ceptionist. The bomb squad Gegana evacuated all employees and swept the office before declaring the area was clear.

**Impact of death of Bin Laden, Al Qaeda leader, for Indonesia**

The death of the figurehead of global terrorist network Al Qaeda Osama Bin Laden should not be ignored or lightly dismissed. Al Qaeda has not had a significant operational or financial presence in Indonesia for several years, but Al Qaeda and Bin Laden remain powerful symbols to Islamist militants worldwide. Bin Laden, now a martyr, could also prove to be larger in death than in life. In Solo scores of Indonesian men rallied in the first week of May stating they were ready to sacrifice their lives in order to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. Special Forces. A group calling itself Al Kaida Solo said it would focus its attacks on the United States. The well-known vigilante group the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), staged prayers for Bin Laden following his death.

Terrorist cells and groups have for the last two years shifted towards local, Indonesian targets, with government officials, Christians and liberal Muslims recent targets. Detachment 88 has drawn the anger of militants for shooting hard-line Islamists and for closing a training camp in Aceh. Some sections of militant network JI have also felt attacking foreigners brought too much international attention. JI had drawn up plans to attack foreigners before in sniper-style attacks. Abu Bakar Bashir, the former spiritual leader of JI, warned the killing of bin Laden would bring “disaster” to the U.S. and said Osama had achieved victory, “even in death”. This theme was prominent on Indonesian jihadist blogs and comments from militants.

**10 May – Student Arrested for Assembling a Bomb:** A junior high student was arrested after attempting to make a bomb in Kepahiang District, Bengkulu. The arrest took place after his parents reported him to police, who reported the bomb is similar to one that exploded at the Liberal Islam Network’s office in Utan Kayu, East Jakarta in March. The student claimed he learned to make the bomb after reading a jihad book he found in the school library. He is in police custody. On 12 May police raided the Public Elementary School, SDN 18 in Kepahiang, Bengkulu. Police found several religious books they said were inappropriate to be read by children and questioned why such books were in the library.

**14 May – Suspicious Package in Sidoarjo, East Java:** A group of teens found a suspicious bag in Tulangan District, Sidoarjo, East Java. The bag contained wires, a clock timer, and writings in Arabic letters, as well as the mention of Al Qaeda Indonesia. Gegana carried out a controlled explosion of the package and swept the surrounding area. It was not clear whether the bag contained an actual bomb or not.

**22 May – Suspicious Packages in Jakarta and Padang:** A suspicious package that contained wires connected to two batteries was found at Kampung Melayu flyover in East Jakarta. The finder who discovered that the package. The bomb squad Gegana performed a controlled explosion of the package. A similar package found in front of a local house in Padang, West Sumatra. The package which contained wires and batteries and was exploded by Gegana.

**22 May – Explosives Found in East Jakarta:** A construction worker found four grenades planted in the ground when he was digging to make a septic tank at a house in Jl Puskesmas, Jatinegara. The worker intended to bring the grenades to the house’s stockroom when he discovered other findings including hundreds of rounds of ammunition for various types of guns. The police confiscated the findings for further investigation.

**Policemen Shot to Death in Palu, Central Sulawesi**

On 25 May four unidentified men shot three police officers in the front of the Bank BCA branch located at Jl Emy Saelan, Palu, Central Sulawesi. According to witnesses, four men with helmets came on two motorbikes. Two of them got off the vehicles and started to shoot at the policemen who were at the security post of the bank. After the shootings they immediately took off. Two of the policemen died from their injuries while a third was seriously injured. The perpetrators used M-16 rifles in the incident. On 25 May a team of Detachment 88 and the Central Sulawesi Police officers arrested two men who allegedly were the shooters and later confirmed they were linked to Jamaah Islamiyah. During the arrest the police seized the two weapons the suspects apparently used to kill

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the police officers and one assault rifle they had taken from the body of one of the victims. Two other terrorists who escaped during the raid are being sought.

On 31 May police arrested another terrorist suspect in Poso. The suspect identified as AR is the brother in law of Haryanto, one of the suspects previously arrested by the police. From AR's house in Jl Trans Sulawesi, Poso Kota Selatan District, the police confiscated maps of Poso Pesisir Forest and Sulewana Village. The Information Head of the National Police, Comm. Boy Rafli Amar, stated that AR is accused of having kept the ammunition that was allegedly used in the shooting. Currently the police are still looking for two other shooters and one mastermind.

**26 May – Bomb Threat in Sidoarjo, East Java:** A telephonic bomb threat was made against Sun City Hotel and Mall in Sidoarjo, East Java. The police immediately sent bomb squad officers to sweep the area and later declared that the area was clear.

**25 May – Bomb Scare in Juanda Airport, Surabaya:** Angkasa Pura stated an x-ray check spotted a bag contained liquid materials that could be used as explosive material. The evidence was rushed to the police office while a waiting Garuda aircraft to Jakarta was sterilized in order to conduct further sweeping of the aircraft. It was reported that prior to the finding, Angkasa Pura received a fax that suggested a Garuda flight to Jakarta might explode.

**Indonesian jails are terrorist incubators says study**

Indonesian jails act as incubators of terrorism, inculcate instead of stamping out radical beliefs and train "freelance terrorists," according to a recent Australian study. "Jihadists in Jail," a year-long research project by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), was based on interviews with 33 convicted terrorists. Dr. Carl Ungerer of the ASPI supervised the study, which included interviews with prisoners in Jakarta, Solo, Surabaya and Semarang. The study included former senior members of Jemaah Islamiyah and others linked to groups such as KOMPAK and Ring Banten. Dr. Ungerer told ABC Australian that a group of hardcore jihadis were preparing to leave Indonesian jails over the next 18 months. Some said they would bomb Western targets on their release. "Several of the men we interviewed hold this view. One of them said to us directly that if he was released from prison today, he would bomb the U.S. embassy tomorrow," Dr. Ungerer said.

**CIVIL UNREST AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE INCIDENTS AND ISSUES**

**3 May – Mob attacks local Newspaper office in Medan:** The office of the Daily Orbit newspaper on Jl. Amir Hamzah, Medan, North Sumatra was attacked by a group of hired thugs apparently under orders from an as yet undisclosed third party displeased with reports on gambling and other cases of abuse involving officials in Medan. A number of computers and office cabinets were damaged, and the editor and newspaper deliveryman were beaten. Police detained 20 suspects in the attack.

**10 May – Violence in Labuhanbatu Selatan, North Sumatra:** Hundreds of people from Tapani Nadenggan Village, Labuhanbatu Selatan Regency, attacked houses belonging to employees of PT Balaka, a palm oil plantation company. The attack was triggered by the arrest of one of the locals for stealing from the plantation area. The mobs burned and damaged 14 houses and stole valuables. They also demanded their friends be released.

**11 May – Violence in Gowa, South Sulawesi:** Hundreds of residents of Pelita Asri Housings attacked the Gowa's State Electricity Company in Jl Hertasning, South Sulawesi. The attack was triggered by three weeks of power cuts in the area. The angry mob damaged the office facilities and assaulted a security guard.

**12 May – Clash in Labuhanbatu, North Sumatra:** A clash between the security of PT Perkebunan Nusantara III and the people from Sidodadi Farmers Group occurred in the company's plantation area in Labuhanbatu, North Sumatra. The clash was triggered by a land dispute which has been ongoing for two years. The security guards were reported to have damaged temporary houses built by the farmers in order to defend their land. Three people were arrested and several were injured.

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**12 May – Land Dispute Riot in Tanah Laut, South Kalimantan:** Thousands of people from Tabanio village damaged a plantation area belonging to PT Kintap Jaya Watindo in Tanah Laut, South Kalimantan. The attack was triggered by a land dispute. It was reported that 40 hectares of land were ruined causing the company a loss of Rp1.2 billion.

**15 May – Vandalism in West Papua:** Hundreds of people attacked the Manokwari Seaport located in West Papua. It was reported that people from the Wamena, Painai, and Timika tribes, came and started to damage the port facilities. The incident was triggered by an assault carried out by a TNI member against one of the locals that resulted in his death.

**26 May – Lapindo Demonstrators Blockade Area:** Hundreds of people from four villages blockaded main accesses in Jl Porong Raya, Sidoarjo, East Java. It was reported that they blockading the toll road entrance, the PLN office, the gas station, and Porong Bridge. Residents demanded their village be included in the Lapindo mud impact map.

**29 May – Mining Company Office Attacked:** Hundreds of people from Godang Muda Village, Siabu District, Mandailing Natal, attacked and burned the offices of PT Sorik Mas Mining, which is located seven kilometers from the village. The attack took place during a demonstration protesting water pollution that turned violent after one of the people was shot by a rubber bullet by a Police Mobile Brigade officer guarding the office. The fire burned most of the office.

**28 May – Arson in Langkat, North Sumatra:** About 300 locals burned five cafes located in Pangkalan Susu District, Langkat, North Sumatra. The incident occurred after residents rejected the cafes, which they believed were used as places for prostitution and the selling of alcoholic beverages, and are objecting because the cafes are located near a high school. The locals claimed they had warned the cafes to stop their business but since they continued to ignore the warning the residents burned the cafes instead.

**30 May – Aceh Singkil Regent's Office Attacked:** Hundreds of people attacked the Aceh Singkil Regent's office in NAD during a demonstration. The mob involving locals and NGOs protested the Regent's verdict regarding a land dispute between locals and PT Nafasindo. The demonstrators started to throw stones at the windows and set fire to several parts of the office. There were no reports of injuries.

#### **VIOLENT CRIME INCIDENTS AND ISSUES**

**1 May – Indonesian Forces Attack and Kill Somali Pirates:** Following the payment of a ransom for the freeing of the 20 Indonesian nationals held hostage by Somali pirates aboard the Indonesian vessel *Sinar Kudus*, the Indonesian military announced that after the hostages had been secured 12 Indonesian military personnel with a helicopter chased after a vessel containing one of the pirate groups and attacked and killed 4 pirates. The Indonesian military personnel involved in the attack were members of a joint military operation force specializing in hostage extraction made up of members of the Navy Jalamengkara Detachment, the Army Special Forces unit and the Army strategic Command Group. The military have reported that all the crew members are safe and are in the hands of 3 Indonesian warships. *The Associated Press* and other media reported the ransom was between \$3 million and \$4.5 million. The *Sinar Kudus* was seized in the Arabian Sea on March 16. Soon afterwards, pirates used the hijacked ship to attack another cargo ship close by, but mercenaries repelled them, the EU Naval Force said. Somalia has not had a functioning government in two decades, and piracy has flourished off its coast. Confrontations with pirates have grown more violent, with countries arresting and taking steps to prosecute suspects. Two Somalis were sentenced Tuesday in Spain to 439 years in jail each for the 2009 hijacking of a Spanish fishing boat in the Indian Ocean, according to the AP. Somali pirates are getting increasingly close to Indonesian waters, venturing far into the Indian Ocean using mother ships from which to launch their high speed attack boats. Indonesia is no stranger to sea-piracy, with frequent attacks on ships passing through its waters. The incidence of such attacks had steadily fallen from an all-time high in 2003, but has increased in the last year

**7 May – Street Robbery in Tangerang:** Two men were robbed as they walked down Jl Bumi Indah, Pasar Kemis District, Tangerang. It was reported that two men on a motorbike approached

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and started to threaten the victims with a gun. After they refused to give the valuables, the robbers struck the victims in the face and stole a bag filled with cash and a cell phone. The total loss was estimated to be around Rp10 million.

**8 May – Robbery in West Jakarta:** A woman was robbed in front of her house in Kramat Road, Kalideres, West Jakarta. It was reported that four men with motorbikes followed the woman on the way to her house. When she reached the house, one of the robbers attacked the woman hitting her with his gun and he stole her bag. The woman lost Rp12 million in cash and her motorbike.

**9 May – Brawl Between Police and Civilians in South Sulawesi:** A brawl occurred between the police and civilians after they demonstrated in front of Maros Legislative Council in Turikale District, South Sulawesi. It was reported the police noticed some people were bringing sharp weapons and they demanded them to hand over the weapons. The civilians refused to give their weapons and started to attack the police, killing one officer and injuring another. One perpetrator was shot dead and three other were hospitalized with gun shot wounds.

**10 May – Robbery inside a Bank in East Nusa Tenggara:** An attempted robbery against took place inside Bank BRI in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara. It was reported that the robber followed the victim, who intended to deposit Rp183 million, to the bank. The robber got inside the bank, pretending to deposit some money, and took a seat next to the victim. Initially he demanded the victim hand over his money; when he refused, the robber grabbed as much as he could and took off. Ten minutes later the police arrested the robber and it was revealed the robber took Rp45 million.

**15 May – Robbery in Jakarta:** A Bank BCA vehicle with Rp2 billion in cash was stolen when it was parked at a pharmacy in Jl Robusta, Pondok Kopi, East Jakarta. The vehicle was stolen when the bank technicians and a security guard were about to refill the ATM machine at the pharmacy. It was reported that two men entered the car and were able to drive off with all the money. The car was later found in Jatibening, Bekasi, and it was discovered the robbers had taken only Rp400 million in cash, leaving the rest of the money inside the car. Police are questioning the technicians, security guard, and the driver.

**17 May – Bank and Gold Store Robberies during Holiday:** Four men robbed Bank Syariah Shaleh Artha in Jl Sultan Hasanuddin, Tambun, Bekasi. It was reported they threatened two security guards with guns and tied them up. The robbers stole a safe deposit box and securities letters. On the same day, four men robbed two gold stores, Indah Jaya and Al-Fajar, in Jatikapur Village, Tarokan, Kediri, East Java. It was reported that they came with motorbikes and entered two of the stores with guns, firing shots randomly. Three people, including a store owner who attempted to defend his store, were shot.

**17 May – Kidnapping in Tangerang:** Police arrested four men in connection with the kidnapping of a mother and two children from their house in Kelapa Dua, Tangerang. It was reported the kidnapers were looking for the father to collect a debt he owed to his employer. When they were unable to find him, they kidnapped his family instead. Thirty one hours after the kidnapping, police located the victims in West Jakarta and rescued the injured victims. Four kidnapers were arrested, including the father's employer.

**16 May – Soldiers Attack Police Station in Riau:** Bukit Barisan Military Command announced it opened an investigation of 10 TNI members allegedly responsible for an attack against the Kampar police station in Riau. It was reported that dozens of people who appeared to be military members attacked the police station after police officers arrested a man in relation to illegal logging. Two Daihatsu Colts pickups trucks filled with logs were confiscated for the purpose of the investigation.

**17 May – Robbery in South Jakarta:** Two men robbed the offices of PT Ragan Teknologi Service located in Jl Pasar Minggu, South Jakarta. It was reported they broke into the office and were discovered as they were looking for valuables. The robbers, who were armed, attacked the victims, killing one and injuring another. Moments after the police arrived and arrested one of the robbers; the other managed to run.

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**21 May – Armed Hijacking of Truck in Bekasi:** A gang of five armed robbers hijacked a truck carrying 20 tons of car brake fluid in Bekasi causing the loss of the truck, the cargo worth Rp500 million and the driver's hand phone and Rp5 million in cash. The hijacking occurred when the vehicle on the Jatiasih toll road in Bekasi en route from Merak. As the truck was approaching the toll gate it was blocked by a car and the robbers seized the vehicle and its contents at gun point.

**24 May – Bank robbery in Indramayu, West Java:** Four men robbed a Bank BRI branch located in Bulak, Indramayu, West Java. They came into the bank, threatened and assaulted six bank employees and stole the safe. The following day police located the robbers' safe house in Lelea District and raided the house leading to the arrest of four of the robbers; two others were reported to have run off. It was discovered the gang was involved in several robberies in different provinces and were led by a former Social Order Police officer (Satpol PP) who managed to get away during the raid. The police confiscated Rp1 billion in cash, two cars, several guns, and various sharp weapons.

**30 May – Police Thwart Lampung-Banten Guns Smuggling:** South Lampung police thwarted the smuggling of guns at the Bakauheni Port, Lampung. The two suspects are from South Sumatera and were about to go to the Merak Port in Banten to deliver the guns. At the Merak Port, police arrested another suspect who was allegedly the receiver of the guns, while another managed to escape. The arrest involved a shootout between police and suspects during which a police officer was injured. The police confiscated four guns and ammunition which were intended to be used in a bank robbery in Bekasi.

#### **NON-VIOLENT CRIME INCIDENTS**

**9 May – People Smuggling on the increase:** Denis Hill, the Chief Representative in Indonesia for the International Organization for Migration, announced that some 3,200 people from strife torn areas were smuggled into Indonesia over the course of last year. He indicated they were mostly using Indonesia as a transit point en route to Australia, where they would seek asylum. National Police indicated that the main gateways used by the smugglers were West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Sulawesi and the Riau islands. The fact that traffickers are able to smuggle almost 10 people a day into Indonesia illustrates the porous nature of Indonesia's boundaries.

**18 May – ATM Robbery in Karawang, West Java:** A group of men robbed an ATM machine belonging to Bank Jabar Banten (BJB) in Klari District, Karawang, West Java. The robbers were caught on CCTV, where they were shown cutting the wires and using a crowbar to dismantle the machine. The total loss was estimated to be Rp147 million.

**20 May – ATM Robbery in West Jakarta:** An ATM machine belonging to Bank OCBC NISP located in Green Ville, Kebon Jeruk, West Jakarta, was stolen. Investigation revealed the ATM machine was not guarded by security and didn't have CCTV camera coverage.

**21-22 May –Thefts in Lubuk Linggau and Medan:** Two men broke into a car belonging to a Metro TV journalist parked in front of his house in Jl Cendrawasih, Medan, North Sumatra. The thieves broke the car windows and stole a laptop, a handy cam, and video cassettes. The following day, a group of unidentified men broke into a house located in Jl Kenanga II, Lubuk Linggau, South Sumatra. They stole jewelries, laptops, securities letters, and a cell phone. There were no reports of injuries and the total loss was estimated to be tens of million of rupiah.

**23 May – Theft in Bali:** A thief broke into a house belonging to a U.Ss citizen in Jl Geriya Mandala, Badung, Bali. He stole a laptop and a bag filled with branded goods, resulting in Rp27 million in losses. A few hours later the police located the thief trying to get away and were forced to shoot him. He was treated in hospital.

**24 May – Car Thefts in Jakarta and Tangerang:** Police shot at a stolen car at the intersection of Jl Cilandak KKO and Jl Simatupang, in Cilandak, South Jakarta, wounding the thief in his thigh. The incident started when the car owner reported the theft to the police at 0300. It was reported she found her Toyota Avanza was missing from the front of her house. Since the car is equipped

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with a GPS device, the police tracked its whereabouts and intercepted and arrested the thief. Another car theft occurred in Tangerang, where a Toyota Innova was stolen by two men on Jl Raya Ciater, Serpong. The driver was threatened by the robbers with a gun and a knife before he was kidnapped and later abandoned in Bantar Gebang, Bekasi. The driver was found by locals, tied up, and then he reported the case to the police.

### **ROAD SAFETY INCIDENTS**

**9 May – Restrictions on Trucks on Toll Road extended:** Jakarta Traffic Police Chief, Sr. Comr. Royke Lumowa announced restrictions on trucks on several stretches of the inner city toll road, brought in during the ASEAN summit, would be extended for a month. The restriction against trucks using the inner city toll road during the hours of 0500 to 2200 had indicated a better flow of traffic and the month extension is designed to allow the authorities to evaluate the efficacy of the restriction which could become a permanent feature. The restriction then resulted in a battle between City Officials and Central Government. City officials claim they have jurisdiction but the land transportation Operators Association (ORGANDA) said on 19 May they would call off their planned truckers' strike after the Transportation Ministry of the Central Government vowed to make the City administration and the police call off the ban. A Transport Ministry spokesman said the City's policy would be revoked as the inner toll road is a national road, that the Ministry had not agreed to the truck ban, and that the police have simply moved congestion from one area to another. Truck operators stated the ban was costing them \$1.4 million USD a day due to delays in getting goods to and from the port of Tanjung Priok.

#### **Nails on Jl Hayim Ashari, Central Jakarta**

Police have urged the drivers to be careful while passing down Jl Hasyim Ashari in Central Jakarta, as it has been reported that nails are often spread along the road which can cause damage to vehicle tires. Based on information from the Traffic Management Center the nails are often spread from ITC Roxy Mas to the Shell gas station en route to Harmoni. The police stated they are conducting daily sweeping of the road in question between 0700 to 0900 hours to clean up the nails.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS AND ISSUES**

#### **Floods and Landslides:**

- **1 May – Mt. Merapi:** Heavy rains hit the slopes of Mount Merapi and caused the Gendol River to burst its banks. Consequently, the river waters changed direction and crashed into Kayen Village. On Sunday evening Kayen village was reported to have been inundated. Lahar (cold lava) from Merapi ran into 52 houses and damaged a further 15 hectares of paddy fields.
- **3 May – East Java:** Two villages in Tuban, East Java, were isolated due to flooding of the Bengawan Solo. The Bengawan Solo overflow averaged one meter in height and submerged roads and houses in the Kanarejo and Karangtinoto villages, Rengel District. Residents choose not to evacuate because they were already familiar with the conditions and expected the government to solve the flood problem.
- **5 May – Ambon:** A landslide and floods occurred in several areas in Ambon due to heavy rains. Three rivers – Batu Merah, Wai Tomu and Batu Gajah – overflowed their banks and several houses were inundated. One person was reported to have died and several houses were badly damaged.
- **5 May – Central Java:** About 6,000 Grantung residents, in Karangmoncol District, Purbalingga, Central Java, are now isolated following the collapse of the only bridge connecting to the area on the night of 5 May. The collapse was caused by overflow of the Karang River due to heavy rain. As a result, two motorists plunged into the river, one of whom was swept away undiscovered.
- **Early May – South Kalimantan:** 13 Sub-districts in South Kalimantan were flooded due to heavy rains and overflowing rivers in their regions and also due to environmental degradation at the headwaters of rivers. Districts affected by floods, include Haruyan in Hulu Sungai Tengah District, and Batu Licin District, Kusan Hulu, Kusan Hilir in Tanah Bumbu Regency. The worst flooding is in Pengaron Sub-District, Tapin District. The water height in the area reached two meters and around 1,700 houses were inundated.

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- **7 May: Garut, West Java:** A landslide occurred in Saway Petey and Kertamukti villages in Garut, West Java, due to heavy rain. Nine people were reported to have died and another is reported to be in a critical condition.
- **11 May – Lamongan, East Java:** Lamongan Disaster Relief Agency recorded that 3,563 houses in five districts in the regency were inundated by floods due to the overflow of the Bengawan Jero River. Thousands of people were evacuated
- **18 May –Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra:** Floods occurred at Sopotinjak Village in Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra. The flood was caused by heavy rain that overflowed Aek Hatupangon River. Four people were reported to have been missing, a local was injured, and the transportation route was paralyzed.
- **24 May –South Jakarta:** Floods occurred in Kampung Pulo, Pondok Labu, South Jakarta, due to the overflow of Krukut River. Hundreds of houses were inundated forcing its residents to flee from their homes.
- **24 May – Medan, North Sumatra:** Floods occurred in Medan Selayan and Medan Baru districts in Medan, North Sumatra, due to the overflow of the Babura River. Hundreds of houses were inundated, forcing their residents to flee from their homes.
- **25 May –Semarang, Central Java:** Floods occurred in two sub-districts in Semarang, Central Java, due to a high tide. Hundreds of houses were inundated however the residents chose to stay in their homes due to lack of assistance.

#### **Earthquakes**

- **3 May – Nabire, Papua:** At 0042 an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale occurred on shore in Papua, approximately 7 km west-northwest of Nabire at a depth of 35 kilometers. This followed an earlier quake measuring 4.8 RA in the same location.
- **5 May – Bengkulu, South Sumatera and Saumlaki, Maluku:** At 0038 an earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale occurred in Bengkulu, South Sumatera, approximately 167 km Southwest of Bengkulu at a depth of 20 kilometers. Twenty minutes later a quake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale also occurred in Saumlaki, Maluku, approximately 181 km Northwest Saumlaki at a depth of 115 kilometers. No tsunami warnings were issued.
- **6 May –Gorontalo, Sulawesi:** At 14:46 an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale occurred in Gorontalo, North Sulawesi, approximately 75 km Southwest of Gorontalo at a depth of 35 kilometers.
- **30 May – Bengkulu:** At 0123 hours, an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale occurred 409 kilometers southwest of Bintuhan, Bengkulu. There were no reports of casualties.

**3 May – Pertamina Gas Well Exploded in South Sumatra:** A Pertamina-owned oil well in the village of Merbau Peninjauan, Ogan Komering Ulu, South Sumatra exploded due to natural factors. Pertamina said the well released gases into the air that were ignited by a bolt of lightning. The fire was extinguished by the reduction of the flow of gases from the well.

**23 May – Tornado in Cianjur, West Java:** A tornado hit Sukamaju Village in Cibeber District, Cianjur, West Java, after hours of heavy rain. Sixty houses were damaged and electricity poles collapsed, causing the village to suffer a loss of power for several hours. However, there were no injuries reported.

**29 May – Mount Dieng Spew CO<sub>2</sub>, Locals Evacuated:** The Vulcanology Survey Indonesia (VSI) raised the status of Mount Dieng located in Banjarnegara, Central Java, as the mountain is spewing a poisonous gas (CO<sub>2</sub>). About 1,079 people from two villages on the slopes of the mountain were evacuated.

#### **INDUSTRIAL AND TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS AND ISSUES**

**2 May –Cargo Ships Sink in Batam:** Two cargo ships loaded with grocery items sank at anchor in Makobar Harbor, Batu Ampar, Batam due to strong winds. Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and high waves hit the ships, with a combination of both sea and rain water, causing the vessels to founder and sink. The crews were ashore at the time.

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**7 May – Merpati Aircraft Crashed in West Papua:** A Merpati aircraft en route Sorong-Kaimana, crashed into the sea 500 meters short of the runway of Kaimana Airport, West Papua. It was reported that 25 people, including the crew, died in the accident. By the following day, 19 bodies had been found and identified. The Directorate General of Air Transportation stated that the cause of the accident is believed to be bad weather, but is unlikely to be confirmed until the authorities have examined the aircraft's flight data and voice recorder black boxes that have already been recovered in good condition and are being examined by the plane's manufacturer. There have been allegations the Chinese manufactured aircraft may have some deficiencies and it has not received certification from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono weighed into to pressure on Merpati Airlines, demanding to know why the state-owned passenger plane crashed. SBY said he wanted a review of the decision to buy 15 of the planes manufactured by China's Xi'an Aircraft Industrial Corporation. Former Vice President Jusuf Kalla also joined calls for a broader investigation and said the previous government had cancelled plans to buy the planes, with the deal being resurrected by the current ruling coalition at a higher price to the state.

Transport Minister Freddy Numberi told the cabinet the MA60 met local aviation safety standards. According to local media reports, the state enterprise ministry approved only \$225 million for the purchase of 15 aircraft. Following the approval, the company signed a memorandum of understanding to lease three MA60s in November 2006. Bappenas, the national planning development ministry, then approved financing for procurement worth \$232 million in May 2007. After only a year in operation, two planes were grounded after technicians found production flaws.

On 25 May, the Air Transportation General Director, Herry Bhakti, stated the authorities had banned the use of the MA-60 aircraft from using three airports for safety reasons. Herry explained that the three prohibited airports are in Ruteng, West Nusa Tenggara, Ende and Waingapu in East Nusa Tenggara. Those airports have high obstacle rates which demand lot of maneuvering to get there safely.

**11 May –Garuda Planes Obtain International Flights License:** Garuda Indonesia's Business Development Manager for Eastern Indonesia, Ismu Gito Waluyo, stated that 84 aircraft belonging to the airline have secured an international license for the safety of its passengers on domestic and international routes. Ismu added that all Garuda Indonesia aircraft are Boeings and already known to have international certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

**16 May – TNI Helicopter Emergency Landing:** A helicopter belonging to the Indonesian Army (TNI) made an emergency landing in Kenyam District, Nduga Regency, Papua. The helicopter departed from Timika at 0931 and the cause of the incident was believed to be engine failure. There are no injuries reported.

**Mandala Airlines to Fly Again**

Mandala Airlines has been rescued by Saratoga Investama, an Indonesian investment firm that will take a 51% stake in the company, and Singapore-based Tiger Airways, with a 33% stake. It was reported that 15% of the shares will be held by the airline's creditors, and the former majority owner Cardig International's share ownership will be reduced to 1%. Tiger Airways is a successful low cost carrier and its management will bring to the table expertise in this cut throat sector of aviation in Indonesia. Its involvement will also allow Mandala to resume flying soon, as Tiger's crews have considerable experience with the Airbus A 320 type that Mandala uses.

**21 May – Lion Air Flight Delayed for 10 Hours due to Flat Tire:** A Boeing 737 aircraft belonging to Lion Air experienced a flat tire after it landed at Tjilik Riwut Airport in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. The aircraft was schedule to fly to Surabaya at 0945 but the technicians found that it had flat a tire. The incident caused a 10-hour delay as the aircraft had to wait for the replacement tire to be flown from Jakarta.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

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**3 May – Dead bodies found in Slipi and at Hotel Indonesia Roundabout, Jakarta:** Police recovered two bodies in separate locations in Jakarta. At 0615 the body of a woman was found floating in the fountain at the Hotel Indonesia roundabout in Central Jakarta. The woman, an apparent Indonesian national in her 40s-50s, was taken to Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital (RSCM) for further investigation with no obvious signs of foul play. At 0715 Jakarta Police reported discovering another body on the Toll Road in front of the Slipi Jaya Mall, Jl. S. Parman, West Jakarta. The corpse was reported by the Traffic Management Centre as causing severe traffic congestion. The corpse was male but his identity is unknown and the body was also taken to Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital (RSCM).

**18 May – British Embassy in Jakarta Closed Temporarily:** The British Embassy in Jakarta issued the following message: *“We regret that we have had to close the main Embassy building for operational reasons. This is due to circumstances specific to the security arrangements for the site of the Embassy building. It is not because of a specific threat or a change in the threat level in Indonesia.”* The closure was brought about by the dismantling of the security barriers on the approach to the embassy. The barriers have not been re-installed and the embassy remains closed.