



Strategic intelligence in preventing radicalism and terrorism: A study in Cilacap

Briyan Costazolanitova¹, Department of Strategic Intelligence Study, Indonesian National Police, Indonesia

Muhammad Syaroni Rofii², School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia, Central Jakarta, DKI Jakarta, Indonesia

Sapto Priyanto³, School of Strategic and Global Studies, Universitas Indonesia, Central Jakarta, DKI Jakarta, Indonesia

*Email for Correspondence: ¹ bcostazolanitova@yahoo.com ² muhammadsyaroni@ui.ac.id ³ sapto.priyanto09@ui.ac.id

ABSTRACT

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This research discusses how the Cilacap Polresta's strategic intelligence in dealing with conditions where there is a Nusakambangan Prison where terrorism convicts are detained. there are prisoners of terrorism convicts and families and organizations affiliated with terrorism in the jurisdiction of the Cilacap Polresta. Based on the background, there are 2 main problems that underlie this title namely 1) What is the pattern of the spread of radicalism in Cilacap? 2) What is the Cilacap Police intelligence strategy in preventing radicalism? The theory that underlies the research is the theory of strategic intelligence and national resilience. Strategic intelligence in law enforcement agencies, is carried out as planning without considering and studying the crime problems faced by the agency and without adequate operational input, while national resilience is a dynamic aspect of a nation that includes all aspects of national life to remain victorious in the midst of regularity and change that always exists. The research method design used to analyze this research is descriptive qualitative, the data collection techniques used are interviews and literature studies. Then where the data collected is then analyzed with theories related to strategic intelligence and national resilience. The results of this study are expected to be one source of information about the pattern of the spread of radicalism, as well as understanding the mechanism of intelligence strategy in preventing radicalism in society.

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INTRODUCTION

Today, the threat of terrorism facing Indonesia has undergone a significant evolution from 16 years ago. Terrorists have regenerated where the latest generation of terrorist networks now has a closer relationship with global terrorist group networks (Mahyudin, 2016). Terrorism is an act of violence or threat of violence committed against a target that is not directly related to the perpetrator, causing damage, death, fear, uncertainty, and despair among the community (Cohen-Louck, 2019). This act of terrorism is carried out with the aim of forcing parties considered opponents by terrorist groups to recognize and respect their interests (Mustofa, 2002).

The act of terrorism, as an extraordinary crime, threatens not only human peace but also fundamental human values. In various studies and studies related to terrorism, it is found that brutality and atrocities committed by terrorist groups are part of an effort to cause fear among the general public. Thus, the targets of terrorism not only include individuals directly affected by violence but also include the wider community who witnessed or heard about the violent incident (Bakti, 2016; Homolar & A. Rodríguez-Merino, 2019).

Terrorism that often occurs in Indonesia tends to be carried out by perpetrators who have a radical religious understanding and in accordance with the goals set by the group that guides the perpetrators. Radicalism, which can eventually lead to acts of terrorism, can come from various factors, including dissatisfaction, feelings of marginalization, alienation, and a sense of hopelessness (Sadarusalam & Hasan, 2019). Radicalism etymologically comes from the Latin radix meaning "root". In the dictionary, the definition describes a radical as an individual who supports rapid and fundamental changes in the rule of law as well as methods of government. Radicalism in terminology refers to an understanding or flow that is often

conservative, uses violent actions, and tends to be extreme in realizing its goals (Adnan & Amaliyah, 2021; Fauziyah & Syah, 2022).

The role of an effective intelligence agency should include the ability to detect, identify, evaluate, analyze, interpret, and present information necessary to foresee the threat of terrorism to national security. The role of intelligence is very important in efforts to mitigate the risk of potential acts of terror. The skills and competencies of an intelligence agent in the collection and processing of information will contribute significantly in preventing future incidents of terrorism. For this reason, BNPT RI consistently provides intelligence training for government officials in various regions in Indonesia (BNPT, 2023). Intelligence agents who play a role in preventing radicalism and terrorism are Cilacap Police in dealing with conditions where there is Nusakambangan Prison where terrorism prisoners are held, there are terrorism prisoners and families and terrorism-affiliated organizations in the jurisdiction of the Cilacap Polresta.

Previous research by Jazuli (2017) shows that to prevent radicalism, it can be done with two strategies, namely hard approach and soft approach. The strategy is carried out by combining enforcement and prevention and is carried out simultaneously with a "proactive law enforcement" approach without ignoring the principles of "rule of law" and "legality principle". With this approach, efforts can be made to prevent acts of radicalism that lead to terrorism without having to (wait) for the occurrence of an act and its consequences. Similar research by Dharma et al. (2021) shows that the policing strategy running in the Surakarta City Resort Police has not been optimal in dealing with various factors that cause terrorism crimes, so a proactive policing strategy is needed that can be a solution in preventing terrorism crimes. The policing strategy needs to be implemented at the structural, cultural and instrumental levels simultaneously and continuously.

Another study by Zulfikar and Aminah (2020) shows that the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) continues to rally various elements of the nation to jointly fight radicalism, promote counter-radicalization, continue to synergize with other government institutions and various media to unite and equalize perceptions in facing the threat. The role of the media in combating terrorism is not effective enough to balance and purify the mass media from radicalism, synergy of roles with various parties is also very necessary. Therefore, it is necessary for the role of the community, community organizations, especially Regional Heads, political figures, and scholars in each region to actively participate in counterterrorism activities in Indonesia.

The novelty of this research is from the object of its research, namely the jurisdiction of the Cilacap police which has never been studied before in the context of intelligence strategies in preventing radicalism and terrorism. This research can add insight into intelligence strategies in preventing radicalism and terrorism. In addition, this research can also be used to develop theories related to strategic intelligence and national resilience. The purpose of this study is to determine the pattern of spreading radicalism in Cilacap, the intelligence strategy of the Cilacap Police in preventing radicalism, and the theory underlying the research is the strategic theory of intelligence and national resilience.

METHOD

The design of the research method used to analyze this research is descriptive qualitative. The types of data used are secondary and primary data. The data collection techniques used are interviews and literature studies. Interviews were conducted with key informants, namely intelligence officials at the Cilacap Police Station and community leaders who have concerns about the issue of radicalism and terrorism. The interview was conducted in depth to explore information about intelligence strategies applied at the Cilacap Police Station in preventing radicalism and terrorism. While the literature study was conducted to study theories related to strategic intelligence and national security. These theories were used to analyze data collected from interviews. Data collected from interviews and literature studies were then analyzed with theories related to strategic intelligence and national resilience. Data analysis was conducted to answer research questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identity politics as one of the factors triggering the disintegration of the nation is considered to be the cause and effect of the implementation of identity politics in more specific domains such as in domestic politics, especially in some regions where there are indeed many different ethnicities, cultures, races and religions. This also causes many negative stigmas to be used by certain groups to attack and corner other groups between the majority and minority or vice versa, examples of negative stigmas that often arise are radicalism, terrorism to acts of racial discrimination (El Shidqi & Andriyani, 2022).

Terrorism is the use of violence to cause fear in order to achieve a certain goal. The use of violence to cause fear can then be done in several ways such as threats, intimidation, piracy to bomb detonation. Bomb blasting itself is the instrument most often used in acts of terrorism (Alexandra, 2017). Meanwhile, according to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 15 of 2003 concerning criminal acts of terrorism, which is clarified by Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2002 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism defines terrorism as: "Any person who knowingly uses violence or the threat of violence that

creates an atmosphere of terror or fear against people widely or causes mass casualties, by depriving others of their liberty or loss of life and property or causing damage or destruction to strategically vital objects or the environment or public facilities or international facilities."

The elements needed in the understanding of terrorism are acts of violence that have an impact on destruction, death, fear, uncertainty, and despair at the mass level, the targets that are used as objects of action are random targets without direct contact with the perpetrators. Finally, terrorism is triggered by motivations that go beyond the political aspect alone, because in many cases, motivations that are not political such as beliefs are also the background (Mustofa, 2002). Meanwhile, radicalism is an understanding or flow that wants social and political change or renewal by violent or drastic means. The essence of radicalism is the concept of mental attitude in bringing change (Yunus, 2017).

The causes of radicalism and terrorism are multi-factor. From a socio-political perspective, radicalism arises due to group dominance in a system and sharp gaps that cause community fatalism. From a sociological perspective, the trigger for radicalism is the identity crisis that afflicts the younger generation, moral shock and differences in ideology and social networks. The trigger from an economic perspective is economic inequality which leads to social jealousy. In addition, weak regulations also trigger radicalism and rampant acts of terrorism (Aminah, 2016).

According to Galib (2021), what needs to be done to prevent terrorism and radicalism is as follows. *First*, law enforcement must be strictly enforced. In a sense, if terrorists are hunted by the Densus 88 team wherever they are, the same thing should be done to perpetrators of violence committed by radical groups. *Second*, through ideological awareness. However, fighting radicalism is against ideology, so to contain it must be through ideology. The right solution is to confront the ideology of violence with the ideology of peace, 'throwing' each other's radical Islamic discourse with moderate Islam. It is certainly within the corridors of Islam without hatred and violence. In this process, moderate Islamic groups are expected to move more actively in campaigning for peaceful and soothing religious moderation.

According to Aslati et al. (2019), in general, the police carry out a cross-sectoral approach strategy in the context of efforts to prevent radicalism and intolerance, namely:

- 1) Galang and deradicalization carried out against radical networks if they already exist and grow in the area of either groups or individuals by empowering mass organizations or religions.
- 2) Integrated coordination between the National Police, TNI, Local Government for an early detection approach and by conducting proactive efforts to prevent radicalization and juridical action against the seeds of radical actions.
- 3) Penitentiary Institution Monitoring. Back up monitoring if each area has prisons in which there are terrorist prisoners about their activities and behavior.
- 4) Monitoring of ex-prisoners is *back up* monitoring in their respective areas if there are ex-terror prisoners who have been released and returned to their environment.
- 5) Empower Polmas, namely strengthening the Swakarsa system and empowering the three pillars of Polmas for prevention

Based on the Decree of the Head of the Indonesian State Police No.Pol Kep./8/II/2009 concerning the amendment of the field manual of the Chief of Police No. Pol: BUJUKLAP/17/VII/1997 concerning the designation of Community Security and Order Development Officers (Babin kamtibmas) to Bhayangkara Pembinaan Kamtibmas (*Bhabinkamtibmas*) from the rank of Brigadier to the Inspector. Meanwhile, according to article 1 paragraph 4 of the National Police Regulation number 3 of 2015 concerning the community, policing sanctions are imposed with Bhabinkamtibmas which is the development of Polmas in villages/kelurahan. Police can build trust by addressing the public safety needs of communities, building strong personal relationships between police and community leaders, promoting open dialogue and transparency on sensitive issues, and addressing core community issues through outreach to other service providers and government agencies. Creating a trusted relationship between police and the community can serve as a platform to advance community goals, improve public safety, and prevent acts of extremist violence (Putra, 2023).

At the Polres level, prepare Polres, Polsek and Pol Post personnel who will be assigned to play a role in efforts to increase real support from the public and public responsiveness and social participation, in the context of deterrence (Pre-empti) and prevention (Preventive) in tackling terrorist activities, to be subsequently trained by Instructors prepared by the Polda implementation The results of the training so that periodic analysis and evaluation are always carried out by the Police and Polda by taking into account the development of terrorist activities (Kuba, 2017).

The spread of radicalism can vary and have many factors. Here are some factors that can affect the spread of radicalism and terrorism in an area, including in Cilacap.

- 1) Internet Access: Easy internet access allows the spread of radical ideology through websites, social media, and other online platforms. Individuals can easily access radical and terrorist material, as well as interact with similar groups around the world. Technology skills and online anonymity can also facilitate recruitment and communication within radical networks.

- 2) **Social Networking:** Individuals are often influenced by friends or family members who hold radical views. Social networks can play a key role in spreading radicalism, both through physical meetings and online interactions. Propaganda and radical information can also be promoted through these networks.
- 3) **Radical Group Activities:** Radical groups may hold meetings, discussions, trainings, and propaganda that influence individuals to join their cause. They can take advantage of physical and virtual environments to recruit new members and build larger networks.
- 4) **Socio-Economic Factors:** Socio-economic factors, such as dissatisfaction, inequality, and unemployment, can make individuals more vulnerable to radicalism. Difficult economic conditions can create social discontent, which radical groups can exploit to recruit supporters.

Intelligence strategy in the prevention of radicalism involves a series of measures:

- 1) **Intelligence Gathering:** Intelligence gathering is the first step in which security forces gather information about individuals, groups, and potential radical threats. It involves surveillance, monitoring communications, and gathering information from multiple sources.
- 2) **Intelligence Analysis:** Once information is gathered, intelligence analysis is performed to understand the patterns, resources, and goals of radical groups. It helps in identifying potential threats and developing an in-depth understanding of the situation.
- 3) **Monitoring Measures:** Monitoring individuals or groups suspected of engaging in radical activity can be carried out to detect suspicious activity and monitor the development of the situation.
- 4) **Law Enforcement:** If there is sufficient evidence, law enforcement can be carried out to arrest and prosecute individuals or groups involved in radicalism activities.

The use of strategic theory of intelligence and national resilience helps analyze the effectiveness of intelligence strategies in preventing radicalism in Cilacap. In efforts to prevent radicalism, cooperation between various institutions, including security forces, government, and civil society, is important to ensure an effective response to the threat of radicalism and terrorism.

CONCLUSION

Identity politics is a significant factor in the disintegration of a nation, particularly in regions with diverse ethnicities, cultures, races, and religions. This can lead to negative stigmas, such as radicalism, terrorism, and acts of racial discrimination, which can cause mass casualties and destruction. Terrorism, on the other hand, is the use of violence to cause fear and achieve a specific goal. It can be done through threats, intimidation, piracy, or bomb detonation.

Terrorism is triggered by motivations that go beyond political aspects, such as beliefs. On the other hand, radicalism is an understanding or flow that seeks social and political change or renewal through violent means. The causes of radicalism and terrorism are multi-factors, including socio-political factors, identity crisis, moral shock, differences in ideology and social networks, economic inequality, and weak regulations.

To prevent terrorism and radicalism, police should confront the ideology of violence with the ideology of peace, promoting peaceful and soothing religious moderation. Police should carry out a cross-sectoral approach strategy, including empowering mass organizations or religions, integrating coordination between the National Police, TNI, and Local Government, and monitoring ex-prisoners.

The spread of radicalism can vary and have many factors, including internet access, social networking, and radical group activities. Intelligence strategies in preventing radicalism involve gathering information about individuals, groups, and potential threats, conducting intelligence analysis, monitoring suspected individuals or groups, and law enforcement. The strategic theory of intelligence and national resilience can help analyze the effectiveness of these strategies in preventing radicalism in Cilacap.

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