



Evaluate The Role of The Community in Intelligence Gathering on Local Terrorism Activities

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism poses a significant national security threat in Indonesia, exacerbated by the clandestine nature of terrorist networks within society. Harnessing community involvement is pivotal in combating terrorism effectively. This study evaluates the community's role in intelligence gathering pertaining to local terrorist activities. Utilizing qualitative research methods, particularly literature review, the study analyzes data through three key stages: data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing. Findings underscore the indispensable contribution of communities in gathering local terrorism intelligence. Unlike conventional channels, communities offer unique insights into terrorist activities inaccessible to law enforcement agencies. However, leveraging community involvement faces challenges and limitations. These include the need for heightened education and training initiatives to enhance community awareness about terrorism. Additionally, fostering trust between communities and law enforcement entities emerges as a critical endeavor. Furthermore, ensuring the safety and protection of individuals reporting terrorism-related information remains imperative for sustained community participation in intelligence-gathering efforts.

Keywords: Intelligence, Terrorism, Raising.

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism poses a serious threat to a country's sovereignty because it threatens security, world peace and social welfare. The crime of terrorism has unique characteristics because the motives and causes are different from other criminal acts. Acts of terrorism can be triggered by various motives, such as holy war, economics, revenge, and based on certain beliefs. As an

extraordinary crime, handling terrorism requires an extraordinary approach (Windiani, 2017). The impact of terrorism is increasing along with advances in information and communication technology, which perpetrators utilize to spread ideology quickly and easily throughout the world. This situation makes terrorism easier and allows it to occur in various places throughout the world. Even countries that have sophisticated security systems cannot guarantee their security from terrorism (Putri, 2018).

Indiscriminate acts of terrorism often target civilians, causing enormous damage to various aspects of human life. In this context, efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism are no longer the exclusive responsibility of the state alone but have become the shared responsibility of all members of society, both on a national and international scale. One of the main obstacles in overcoming terrorism is the existence of terrorist networks, which are often hidden amidst society. Therefore, the community has an important role in assisting law enforcement officials in efforts to prevent and overcome terrorism. A community is a social entity consisting of individuals who belong to each other, are bound to each other, and believe that the members' needs will be met as long as they are committed to staying together (Herald, 2022).

Previous research (Zulfikar & Aminah, 2020) shows that the role of the media in eradicating terrorism is not effective enough to balance and purify the mass media from radicalism; synergistic roles with various parties are also very necessary. Therefore, the role of the community, community organizations, especially regional heads, political figures, and ulama in each region, is needed to participate actively in activities to eradicate terrorism in Indonesia. Another research study (Yudhanto & Legowo, 2024) found that the potential threat of maritime terrorism in the Malacca Strait was caused by several factors, such as economics, politics, and geographical location. The role of intelligence includes collecting accurate and reliable information, carrying out appropriate intelligence analysis, and providing early warning of emerging threats. Apart from that, intelligence also needs to strengthen cooperation with national and international intelligence partners to increase intelligence capabilities in dealing with potential maritime terrorism threats in the Malacca Strait.

Previous research conducted by (Malahayati, Djati, & Widodo, 2021) concluded that 1) The implementation of the DKI Jakarta Regional Intelligence Committee (Kominda) did not experience significant obstacles because, in the context of the DKI Jakarta Kominda, obstacles are considered challenges that need to be faced. 2) Cooperation between Kominda DKI Jakarta and other intelligence agencies takes place in harmony, with regular exchange of information and no overlap. 3) Supervising the role of Kominda DKI Jakarta intelligence as one of the institutions responsible for preventing and handling conflict in the DKI Jakarta area has been carried out in accordance with applicable procedures, even though there are ego sectoral aspects of each intelligence agency.

The novelty of this research comes from the research object, namely evaluating the role of communities in gathering intelligence on local terrorist activities, which has never been studied before. The theoretical implication of this research is that understanding the dynamics of interactions between communities and law enforcement officers in intelligence gathering can help develop more mature theories and conceptual frameworks in the field of terrorism and security studies. This research aims to evaluate the role of communities in gathering intelligence on local terrorist activities.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study used qualitative research methods. The qualitative research method is a method or method of research that emphasizes analysis or descriptiveness. In a qualitative research process, things from the subject's perspective are emphasized more and the basis of theory is so that the research process is in accordance with the facts found in the field. Qualitative methods prioritize observing phenomena and researching more into the substance of the meaning of these phenomena (Fadli, 2021). The data collection technique in this research is a literature study. Researchers utilize existing sources of information, such as books, scientific journals, articles and related documents. Researchers collect relevant data to support analysis of the role of communities in gathering local terrorism intelligence. The data that has been collected is then analyzed in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Terrorism has become an enemy of the world that knows no territorial or state boundaries. The term terrorism itself implies an act of war (Huda, Runturambi, & Syauqillah, 2021). Terrorism poses a significant challenge to modern society as radicalized groups continue to proliferate and evolve. These groups often resort to violence, intimidation, and coercion to advance their political, ideological, or religious agendas. One of the most alarming aspects of terrorism is its indiscriminate nature, where targets often include civilians, infrastructure, and public facilities that may have no direct involvement in the underlying conflicts. This indiscriminate targeting not only inflicts harm and instills fear in innocent populations but also disrupts the fabric of societies, undermining trust and stability.

Terrorism as part of Transnational Crimes has become a concern for developed and developing countries because terror attacks evolve using weapons of mass destruction in the form of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear weapons (Runturambi & Mukhtar, 2020). As terrorism continues to morph and adapt to changing geopolitical landscapes and technological advancements, combating it requires a multifaceted approach that addresses root causes,

strengthens security measures, and fosters international cooperation. Efforts to counter terrorism must prioritize addressing grievances that fuel radicalization, enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and bolstering law enforcement capabilities to prevent and respond to attacks. Additionally, promoting tolerance, inclusivity, and dialogue can help undermine the appeal of extremist ideologies and cultivate resilient communities capable of resisting the lure of violence. Only through concerted and coordinated efforts can societies hope to effectively mitigate the threat posed by terrorism and safeguard the foundations of modern civilization (Ilorocha, Widodo, Sukendro, Saragih, & Suwarno, 2023).

Acts of terrorism in Indonesia, in accordance with Law No. 15/2003 on the Eradication of the Criminal Acts of Terrorism, are defined as transnational crimes that are organized and have extensive networks that can threaten security, both at the national and international levels. This act has the potential to harm the state because it can disrupt security and peace, as well as cause great losses in terms of casualties. Terrorism can occur anywhere, anytime, and anyone can become a victim (Koto, Lubis, & Sakinah, 2022).

Terrorism is one type of crime that has become a global concern and is often categorized as a "Crime Against Humanity." This threat is a serious problem for the security of all countries because terrorism has become a global phenomenon that can disrupt international peace and security and potentially harm the welfare of people around the world. Therefore, it is necessary to make planned efforts to eradicate it so that human rights can be properly respected and protected (Setiawan & Putranto, 2023). James H. Wolfe identifies several characteristics of terrorism as follows:

a. Motivation for terrorism

Terrorism can arise from a variety of motivations, including political grievances, religious extremism, socio-economic disparities, or ethnic tensions. While some terrorist groups aim to achieve political objectives such as overthrowing governments or seceding territories, others may pursue non-political goals such as promoting religious ideologies or creating chaos to destabilize societies. The diverse array of motivations underscores the complexity of addressing the root causes of terrorism and highlights the need for nuanced strategies in countering it.

b. Targets of terrorism

Terrorist acts can target a wide range of entities, including civilians, public facilities, military installations, or symbolic landmarks. Civilians are often targeted to instill fear and sow discord within populations, while attacks on public facilities aim to disrupt normalcy and undermine confidence in government institutions. Additionally, military facilities or personnel may be targeted to weaken the state's ability to respond effectively or to

provoke armed conflict. The selection of targets reflects the strategic objectives of terrorist groups and their efforts to achieve maximum impact with minimal resources.

c. Purpose of terrorist acts

Terrorism is fundamentally a tactic employed to achieve specific goals, which often involve coercing governments or influencing public opinion. By instigating fear and insecurity through violence, terrorist groups seek to pressure governments into acceding to their demands or altering policies in their favor. Whether seeking political concessions, territorial autonomy, or ideological dominance, the overarching aim is to exert leverage and manipulate the course of events through forceful means. Thus, acts of terrorism are not merely random acts of violence but calculated actions with strategic objectives aimed at achieving broader agendas.

d. Violation of international norms

Terrorism constitutes a blatant violation of international law and ethical principles governing human behavior. By deliberately targeting non-combatants and civilian infrastructure, terrorists disregard the fundamental rights to life, security, and dignity enshrined in international conventions and norms. Moreover, the indiscriminate nature of terrorist attacks undermines the principles of proportionality and distinction inherent in the laws of armed conflict, further exacerbating the humanitarian consequences of such acts. Consequently, the international community condemns terrorism unequivocally and has implemented legal frameworks and counterterrorism measures to prevent and prosecute those responsible for such egregious violations.

Domestically, several factors cause terrorism and radicalism. First, there is a widening social and political gap, such as the gap between the rich and the poor. Second, international networks provide logistical support to local groups, such as those who have undergone military training in the Philippines or Afghanistan. Third, cultural factors, such as a narrow view of religious ideology, especially with regard to the concepts of jihad and Khilafah in Islam, are interpreted narrowly and sectorally. This view is often developed by structuralism, which considers that the roots of terrorism include equal rights, protection of civilians, and freedom (Zaidan, 2017).

A number of counter-terrorism policies were implemented with the aim of limiting the capabilities of terrorist groups or networks so that they no longer have the capability to launch terrorist acts and cannot attack important strategic targets. Actions taken by the government also increase security in various locations that are potential targets for terrorist attacks, such as hotels, offices, and shopping centers, with the aim of preventing possible attacks (Maulana, 2021). Intelligence is one of the most important counterterrorism policies in an effort to prevent and respond to the threat of terrorism. Through collecting, analyzing, and disseminating relevant and

accurate information, intelligence allows security forces to better understand the nature and dynamics of terrorist groups, including their goals, strategies, and potential targets. By thoroughly understanding the threat, security forces can design effective prevention strategies and respond quickly in the event of an attack.

Conceptually, state intelligence in a democratic context is needed to anticipate possible threats to national security. Within this framework, the objectives of intelligence are (1) to prevent the occurrence of adverse strategic incidents, and (2) to provide security policymakers with valuable preliminary information to enhance understanding and vigilance (Mujianto, Hidayat, Akim, & Djuyandi, 2022).

A broad understanding of national security often advocates prioritizing the concept of human security. Direct threats to individuals are understood through the lens of human security, as security focuses not only on the state and state-related entities but also on individuals as important actors in shaping the structure of statehood (Lindawaty, 2018).

Human security is outlined in seven aspects, which include: first, economic security which relates to poverty and guarantees the fulfillment of basic needs; second, food security which seeks to ensure access to adequate food; third, health security which is related to easy access to protection from disease and health services; fourth, environmental security which relates to human protection from various environmental threats, including pollution and access to clean natural resources; fifth, personal security that focuses on the safety of individuals from physical threats such as domestic violence, crime, and accidents; sixth, community security that emphasizes the preservation of cultural identity and security from ethnic or communal conflict; and seventh, political security that seeks to protect freedom of speech, association, and uphold human rights (Karisma, 2023).

State defense and security are fundamental aspects of maintaining state sovereignty. The Indonesian Constitution, reflected in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NRI 1945), clearly states that the purpose of the state is to protect the entire Indonesian nation and all its citizens (Hilmy & Azmi, 2021). Therefore, the government is responsible for maintaining national sovereignty and integrity from internal and external threats. Terrorism is considered a crime that violates humanity harms international civilization, threatens world peace, and disrupts prosperity. Therefore, stricter measures are needed to prevent and tackle the threat of terrorism in Indonesia (Gibran & Hidayati, 2023).

Terrorism eradication in Indonesia must be carried out continuously, even though there are no reports about the presence of terrorist groups in certain areas. The process of eradicating terrorism should be organized like the human immune system that has antibodies. Indonesia needs to closely supervise and observe all parties involved in the counterterrorism effort, including every individual and organization in the society that may be involved in harmful

activities, in accordance with the principle of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Zulfikar & Aminah, 2020). In this regard, intelligence plays a very vital role in eradicating local terrorism by providing accurate, timely, and in-depth information about existing threats. This allows security forces to comprehensively understand the nature and network of terrorist groups, including their potential targets, possible tactics, and strategies. By understanding the *modus operandi* of terrorist groups, security forces can plan effective countermeasures and rapid responses to threats (Bahroji & Roffi, 2023).

Intelligence also helps in identifying individuals involved in terrorist activities or radicalism, both locally and internationally. By monitoring their activities and gathering solid evidence, law enforcement authorities can follow up with investigations and arrests, breaking the terrorists' supply chain and reducing their ability to carry out attacks. Intelligence information is also important in designing effective terrorism prevention policies and strategies, such as deradicalization programs, public education, or other preventive measures. A strong and effectively coordinated intelligence presence is a key element in the fight against local terrorism. It helps build a better understanding of the threats faced. It enables security forces to take the necessary steps to protect the public from terrorist attacks and ensure the safety and stability of the community.

Local counterterrorism communities play a key role in preventing and countering terrorism threats at the level closest to the community. They have in-depth knowledge of the social, economic and political dynamics in their area, and can quickly identify signs of suspicious terrorist activity. With the active involvement of the community, valuable intelligence information can be gathered, providing the necessary clues to prevent terrorist attacks before they happen or respond quickly in the event of a threat (Budiman, 2016).

In addition, local counterterrorism communities also play an important role in building community resilience against propaganda and recruitment by terrorist groups. By strengthening social ties and values that promote inclusion and tolerance, communities can fortify themselves against radicalization and extremism. Through well-coordinated education, awareness and prevention programs, local counterterrorism communities can be at the forefront of countering terrorist ideologies and providing support and rehabilitation to individuals affected by them. Thus, close collaboration between local counterterrorism communities, government, and security agencies is key to building a safe and secure environment.

The community's role in gathering intelligence on local terrorism activities is crucial in preventing and countering terrorism threats. Communities that have direct access to the environment where terrorist activities are taking place may be able to detect early signs or changes in suspicious behavior from individuals or groups involved in terrorist activities. Through active engagement and cooperation between citizens and security forces, important information

such as movements, meetings, or even attack plans can be identified early, enabling effective preventive action. By building a strong relationship between the security forces and the community, the community can be an invaluable source of intelligence in combating local terrorism threats (Mahyudin, 2016). So that this becomes one of the strategies for preventing terrorists. Strategy is a tool to achieve goals or competitive advantage by looking at external and internal factors (Sudarmadi & Runturambi, 2019).

However, an evaluation of the community's role in intelligence gathering should also consider some challenges and limitations. Not all community members may feel comfortable sharing information with the security forces for fear of reprisal or stigmatization from terrorist groups. Furthermore, there is a risk that the information provided by the community is inaccurate or even misleading, which can interfere with law enforcement efforts and lead to unfair profiling. Therefore, it is important to build trust and ensure that there are adequate protection and privacy mechanisms to encourage greater participation from the community in terrorism prevention efforts. Thus, an evaluation of the community's role in intelligence gathering on local terrorism activities should take into account these complex dynamics to maximize its effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

Communities have a very important role in gathering local terrorism intelligence. Communities are able to provide important information about terrorist activities that law enforcement officials often cannot obtain through conventional methods. However, despite having great potential, the community's role in gathering terrorism intelligence is still faced with various significant challenges. These challenges include the public's lack of knowledge and understanding about terrorism, distrust of law enforcement officials, and fear of possible retaliation from terrorist groups for those who provide information. To overcome this challenge, joint efforts are needed between the government, security institutions and the community. Steps such as increasing education and training about terrorism for the community, strengthening relations between the community and law enforcement officials, and providing protection to individuals who provide information about terrorism are key in increasing the role of communities in gathering local terrorism intelligence.

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First publication right:

Asian Journal of Engineering, Social and Health (AJESH)

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