

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIEDRELEASE IN PART B7(F),B6**IP 04 – COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN INDONESIA**

(SBU) Like other Southeast Asian countries, Indonesia has become increasingly concerned about the number of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) traveling to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and al-Nusrah Front. There has not been a major terrorist attack in Indonesia since 2009, but there is growing concern and recognition that returning FTFs that with military training and experience could unite and inspire local groups to strike again in Indonesia. A growing number of Bahasa-language social media sites and online forums disseminate violent extremist messaging and support for ISIL. Indonesia also faces a growing number of incarcerated and in some cases operationally-capable violent extremists being released from prison with limited rehabilitation or reintegration support.

(SBU) Indonesia has repeatedly declined to join the counter-ISIL (C-ISIL) coalition. In addition to the longstanding Indonesian policy of neutrality and non-intervention, Indonesia's leadership has well-founded concerns that joining the coalition could generate domestic backlash due to the optics of involvement in what is widely seen as a Western-backed "war on Islam." As Indonesian Vice President Kalla remarked in his statement to the 2015 CVE and C-ISIL Summit on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Indonesia favors a "soft power" approach to countering violent extremist groups. Indonesian civil society and Muslim leadership, including from the majority of Indonesia's most conservative Muslim organizations, have forcefully and repeatedly rejected ISIL, viewing them not only as a security threat, but as an existential challenge to Indonesian culture and values. Nonetheless, the United States is encouraging Indonesia to attend Coalition working groups on countering FTFs and extremist messaging as an observer. REVIEW AUTHORITY: Clarke Ellis, Senior Reviewer

(SBU) Indonesia has a robust and vocal civil society, with many grassroots organizations involved in promoting tolerance and moderate Muslim values. Unfortunately, many of these organizations suffer from inadequate technical capacity and organizational skills. U.S. government assistance empowers legitimate voices by providing local organizations with technical training, analysis, and support to amplify the compelling counter-narratives already being promulgated by civil society organizations and activists.

(SBU) Indonesia has recently demonstrated an interest in assuming a more active and influential role in global CVE efforts and is presently engaged in a government-wide effort – with broad support from Indonesia's Muslim civil



SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

society – to “export Indonesian Islam.” As a Muslim-majority democracy that exhibits broad tolerance for religious diversity, Indonesia and its moderate interpretation of Islam can serve as a counterweight to the more rigid and strict forms that reject modernity and support violence. CVE offers a unique opportunity to engage with Indonesia where it has strong will to promote its model of Islamic scholarship and practice, and it offers opportunities to complement the efforts of other third party donor countries.

(SBU) Most Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) -funded Indonesia CVE programming has focused on countering violent extremist messaging and recruitment targeting youth and other vulnerable populations. CT has supported a range of small-scale CVE projects which have (1) promoted the voices of victims/survivors of terrorism throughout high schools in West Java; (2) encouraged collaboration between religious organizations and local law enforcement to create messages that debunk, counter, or clarify inciting violent extremist propaganda; and (3) fostered conflict resolution skills training for vulnerable youth. One larger CT project hosts workshops with high school and university youth to provide an overview of the dangers of violent extremism and train youth on multi-media approaches to CVE.

(SBU) To enable technical and messaging capacity among indigenous grassroots organizations, Post has provided a small grant to a local Islamic studies center to build a network of Indonesian NGOs willing and able to contribute to CVE efforts. In addition to cataloguing the organizations involved, Post will provide training in program planning and execution as a means to lower the administrative barriers to cooperation with local organizations. The goal of this initiative is to encourage a consortium of diverse, indigenous CVE organizations.

(SBU) Victims of terrorism can also provide a powerful counter-narrative to the justification for, and appeal of, such violent extremism. Thus, CT is funding a larger-scale, three-year project that (1) supports victims to engage at-risk students at schools in identified hotspots of recruitment and radicalization to violence; and (2) engages with media to ensure that the victims’ counter-narratives are disseminated to broader audiences. Metrics include measuring attitudinal changes following the dissemination of counter-narratives to vulnerable populations.

(SBU) A current CT-funded CVE law enforcement project identifies and supports implementation of community-derived strategies to help stabilize areas vulnerable to violent extremism, increase cooperation between the National Police and local governments, and strengthen media’s CVE responsibility. The project has

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

increased higher levels of interaction and trust between the police and the community – thus limiting the influence of violent extremist elements. It also expanded the national police’s understanding of the use of patrol and community action officers to reduce social conflict and crime, influenced greater use of female officers in the community, and set the stage for the plan that will restructure the precinct and affect close to 240,000 officers.

(SBU) Indonesia has been an active member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), especially as the co-chair (along with Australia) of the Detention and Reintegration Working Group (DRWG) since its establishment in April 2014. The DRWG has hosted five activities since it was established. Initial work focused on implementation of the Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders - including training workshops on management of violent extremist offenders and their education, rehabilitation, and skills training.

Approved:	CT/FO:	[redacted]		B6 B7(F)
Drafted:	CT/CVE:	[redacted]		
Cleared:	CT/P:	[redacted]	(ok)	B6 B7(F)
	CT/SPI:	[redacted]	(ok)	
	CT/RAP:	[redacted]	(ok)	
	CT/MA:	[redacted]	(ok)	
	CT/CVE:	[redacted]	(ok)	B6 B7(F)
	EAP/RSP:	[redacted]	(ok)	
	EAP/MTS	[redacted]	(ok)	
	DRL/IRF:	[redacted]	(ok)	
	R/CSCC	[redacted]	(info)	B6 B7(F)
J/FO	[redacted]	(info)		