Dynamics of Media in Shaping the Community's Mindset: War Against Terrorism in Indonesia

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Abstract. The threat of terrorism is still a complex problem in the world and Indonesia in particular. As a large and heterogeneous democracy, Indonesia, which is a country that upholds freedom of expression, has the opportunity to become a place for the spread of radicalization. Media has become one of the most popular tools lately as a means of disseminating information on terrorism propaganda. The role of the media in the formation of volunteers to join terrorist groups is a phenomenon that is growing every year. This study uses qualitative analysis techniques to see the existing problems. The correlation between the media and the development of terrorism has been discussed in the research. The role of countering terrorism has become the focus of the government's attention along with the increase in acts of terrorism in Indonesia. Good understanding of information literacy about terrorism will minimize terrorist acts. A literate society and community will help as a watchdog in the pace of terrorist development. the dissemination of valid information in the media will provide an understanding to the public which ones are worth continuing or not

Keywords: Media; Terrorism; Information Literacy.

1   Introduction

Indonesia is one of the most populous countries in the world. Referring to the records of the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration (Dukcapil), Indonesia is currently the 4th most populous country and the largest Muslim country in the world. With a population at the end of December 2021 of 273.87 million, making Indonesia is one of the countries that have threats from various aspects, ranging from ideology, politics, economy, social, culture, defense, and security. One of the security areas that has become the focus of the world's attention on Indonesia is the spread of radicalism and terrorism. From the long record of terrorism in Indonesia, ranging from kartowuwiryo to the suicide bombings in Makassar in 2021, this country has the possibility of a threat of radicalism that is quite vulnerable.

As is well known, after the events of 9/11 in America, the development of terrorism has shifted to the religious sphere. The role of Al-Qaeda and ISIS in the Middle East makes terrorism even more complex, coupled with the group's loyalists who commit allegiance and spread throughout the world, making it the most feared group in the world. This shift in

thinking also involves the western media which intensely continues to attach religious backgrounds to terrorist actors after the 2000s.

Indonesia in 2018 has passed Law Number 5 of 2018 concerning Amendments to Law Number 15 of 2003 concerning Stipulation of Government Regulations instead of Law Number 1 of 2002 concerning Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism. This law in Indonesia clarifies the understanding of terrorism in Indonesia and changes the map for dealing with terrorism. Traditional handling, which used to be still waiting, has now been changed to be pre-emptive [1][2]. This makes it easier for related institutions or ministries such as the police to take action before terrorist acts are carried out.

In addition to using terrorism net patterns, one of the identifications that can be done to find traces of terrorism is through media screening. Currently, terrorist groups such as ISIS use the internet as a means of spreading access. The Post Truth game is being played by terrorism groups in becoming new members through digital media. In addition, the media has significant advantages such as its wide reach, does not require large costs, and the world situation which is currently undergoing a COVID-19 pandemic, making the spread of terrorism through the internet media now popular. This method has proven to be quite successful so far with many people in the world who have become foreign terrorist fighters (FTF), one of which is Indonesia.

2 Result and Discussion

2.1 Media Freedom and the Impact that Needs to be at Stake

Indonesia is a democratic country that respects the freedom to express ideas and ideas in public. Indonesia is one of the countries that uphold the values of freedom. Although it is not absolute like western countries, it must be acknowledged that Indonesia's freedom is real and regulated in such a way so as not to injure the rights of others. When compared to a communist country which is more closed, the freedom of expression of the Indonesian people in the media still tends to be free[3]. The people's freedom of opinion has been stated in the 1945 Constitution which is the highest constitution of the country. However, it does not accept differences, but freedom of opinion must be by the rules of the Indonesian constitution, which is final and cannot be changed [4].

Indonesia is a heterogeneous country, consisting of several religions, many tribes, ethnicities, and cultures. The presentation of a war of interest from a heterogeneous country of this kind has considerable possibilities. This is what radical terrorist groups use to try to destroy it in various ways. For example, in 2021, there were arrests of terrorism suspects who were members of political parties in Indonesia. In addition, there was also the arrest of a senior official of a community organization that had been dissolved by the Indonesian government, Front Pembela Islam (FPI). Finally, there was also a member of the Indonesian Ulema Council who was also arrested for allegedly joining the network of

Indonesia State Intelligence Agency radical research group in 2017, at least 39% of students in several universities had been exposed to radicalism. Apart from the campus environment which is the world of academia, there are also case studies showing that there are law enforcement officers and civil servants who are allegedly exposed to radicalism. This is explained by at least 3% of the TNI and 19% of employees of Indonesia State-Owned Enterprisesand Indonesian Civil Servants who have been exposed to radicalism that refers to

anti-Pancasila. Notes from anti-terrorism institutions themselves such as the National Counterterrorism Agency state that the spread of radicalism has taken root in the educational environment. At least until 2019, 10 State Campuses in Indonesia Affected by Radicalism [5].

Looking at the developing situation in Indonesia, the psychology of the people seems bored and considers radicalism as propaganda material from the government. People began to look for anti-government propaganda literature, which on average was radical literacy of terrorism on the internet to find justification for their wild thoughts. This can be seen from the ease with which Indonesians can access social media accounts for the propaganda of radical terrorism groups, such as through websites, Facebook, Telegram, YouTube, and Twitter. Currently, it is very risky because Indonesia's active Internet and social media users are among the largest in the world. For internet users, namely 202.6 million (73.7% of the total population in Indonesia) and Active Social Media Users: 170 million (61.8% of the total population in Indonesia). From this, it can be seen early that the circulation of information through the media is very fast [6][7].

Apart from the internet media, this problem is exacerbated by the pattern of reporting on national and international television and print media which sometimes becomes the wick of fire and links terrorism to certain religious values. In such a principle, the media should report on terror events, but not reproduce the terror itself. An incident of terrorism will always be trending, so sometimes media companies are often seen picking up crumbs of sensationalism to earn ratings. When covering terror, the media is expected to not only work as a channel of information but also to ensure that the framing of terror events does not injure the public's sanity. The making of this opinion has created a psychological war of thought for certain groups in Indonesia, which in fact constitute the majority. As an example of discriminatory news raised by journalists regarding veils that are identical to radical groups or have more irrelevant sources such as artists, giving rise to new conspiracies[8]. This kind of news has the potential to fail to help the public understand terrorism. As we know, terrorists do not have uniforms. Instead of increasing public awareness of terror perpetrators by helping to understand the ideology behind the terror, this kind of reporting seeks audience ratings. It is feared that if it continues, it will be dangerous because it will create a domino effect that causes the emergence of radical seeds which have not been paid attention to [9].

Concern about the spread of radical ideas through the media at this time also needs to be watched out for with the fact that the information literacy of the Indonesian people is still lacking. based on a survey conducted by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2019, Indonesia's literacy rate is at number 62 out of 70 countries. Despite having low information literacy, Indonesian people have a high level of trust in the media. The data that becomes the concentration also refers to research from the Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report 2022 which states that the Indonesian people have a very high level of trust in the media, even being in second place. Indonesia is in the second rank of people who trust the media with a known level of trust from the Indonesian people at 73%. This is exacerbated because by 2021, Average daily internet time via any device: 8 hours, 52 minutes, Average daily television viewing time (broadcast, streaming, and video on demand): 2 hours, 50 minutes, and average daily social media time on any device: 3 hours, 41 minutes. The above fact becomes vulnerable because it can be used by radical groups to spread their understanding if the community does not have a good level of information literacy [10][11].

At least, during 2021, the National Counterterrorism Agency has taken down as many as 650 pieces of propaganda content that are indicated to be radical from hundreds of internet sites and social media. The process is in collaboration with the Director-General of Aptika,

Ministry of Communication and Information [12]. Referring to the social media data most accessed by the Indonesian people are Youtube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Facebook Messenger, Line, Linkedin, Tiktok, Pinterest, Telegram, We Chat, Snapchat, Skype, Tumblr, Reddit.

The media is good a weapon for radical terrorist groups to spread their ideas. Radical groups try to twist the facts to be used for their own interests. Of the various existing social media, even the Indonesian Ministry of Communications once blocked access to Telegram in July 2017 because it hosts extremist material and facilitates the planning and coordination of terrorist attacks. Telegram has indeed become a favorite social media for terrorist groups to communicate and spread their content. For example, during the January 2016 attack in Jakarta, terrorists used telegram messages, which is a very important application to The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) [13].

3   Conclusions

Referring to the situation of the spread of radical understanding through the digital world (media), it is necessary to understand the public regarding information literacy. Information literacy is a basic human ability to understand information needs, information sources, information use, and information return. This is what makes information literacy important to be mastered by people who live in the information age. The public is required to analyze any information they obtain. Whether it's information from television media, print, and the internet. At least, in understanding information, people need to compare information from one media with other media.

This demand for extensive information makes the role of the Indonesian government needed in it. Institutions, ministries, community organizations, religious leaders, community leaders, traditional leaders, to all levels of society need to lower ego and cooperate in eradicating terrorism radicalism in society. Specifically related to preventing the spread of radicalism through the internet, television, and print media, the Government through the National Counterterrorism Agency needs to collaborate closely with the Ministry of Communication and Information to the Indonesian Journalism Alliance and the Indonesian Journalists Association.

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