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From: Sarimah Binti Raduan <ISSarimah@ntu.edu.sg>

Date: Monday, 17 May 2021 at 9:22 AM

To: "S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies" <RSISAll@ntu.edu.sg>, RSIS Associates <RSISAssociates@ntu.edu.sg>

Subject: [Invitation] ICPVTR Webinar on "Managing the Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Asia: Complexities and Challenges" on 24 May 2021



Ponder the Improbable



ICPVTR Webinar Series on "Terrorism Landscape in Southeast Asia"

Managing the Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Asia: Complexities and Challenges

By

Dete Aliah

Founder and Director, SeRVE (Society against Radicalism and Violent Extremism),
Jakarta – Indonesia

Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady

Assistant Professor, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC),
International Islamic University Malaysia
Associate Fellow, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT),
The Hague – The Netherlands

Moderator

Dr Noor Huda Ismail

Visiting Fellow, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Details:

Date: **Monday, 24 May 2021**

Time: **2.00 – 3.30pm (UTC+8)**

Note: Please be informed that the webinar will be conducted via Zoom. Meeting ID and Password will be sent via email to registrants 1 day before the event. Unregistered persons will not be allowed into the webinar.

If you would like to attend, please [click here](#) to register or copy and paste the following URL to your web browser:
https://wis.ntu.edu.sg/pls/webexe88/REGISTER_NTU.REGISTER?EVENT_ID=OA21051411443518 by **Sunday, 23 May 2021, 4pm (UTC+8)**

About the Series

The generally subdued security climate in 2020 in Southeast Asia was breached by the suicide attack in Makassar, Indonesia on 28 Mar 2021. Until then, restrictive COVID-19 measures put in place by governments had seemingly arrested the mobility and planning abilities of jihadist groups in the region. Some observers had cautioned though that this security quietude was temporary and could represent a time for jihadists to lie low, regroup and review their ideological narratives, funding streams and operational plans before they spring back into action. In light of the latest attack, what lies ahead for the SEA terrorism landscape which had been with past attacks by local affiliates of the Al Qaeda and the Islamic State? In order to understand how the terrorism threat may unfold in the foreseeable future, ICPVTR is holding a series of webinars during the year to explore different aspects of the evolving threat picture in SEA. The series examines the dynamics of the region's terrorism landscape, with in-depth discussions on the complexities and challenges in managing the return of foreign terrorist fighters, terrorism financing, latest developments in conflict areas which attract jihadists like Marawi, and the best practices and obstacles in countering online radicalisation.

Abstract

In the second webinar of the series, Ms Dete Aliah and Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady will provide insights on Indonesian and Malaysian repatriation policies covering their citizens who had joined IS in Syria and Iraq. The speakers will shed more light on these so-called regional Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and their families currently residing in prisons and refugee camps controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces in Syria. They will assess the preparedness of and challenges posed to both the Indonesian and Malaysian governments as well as civil society groups in managing the returnees, covering issues ranging from legal processes and rehabilitation to monitoring and reintegration into the wider society. Ms Dete and Dr Ahmad will also offer a set of policy recommendations concerning how relevant authorities could better mitigate the challenge posed by

the Indonesian and Malaysian returnees, who represent the largest group of IS fighters from Southeast Asia.

Speakers



Dete Aliah Siti Darajatul Aliah, otherwise known as Dete, is the Founder and Director of Jakarta-based SeRVE (Society against Radicalism and Violent Extremism). She was also formerly the Managing Director of the Board of Institute for International Peace Building (*Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian/YPP*). Her work includes disengagement of former and current violent extremist offenders and their families, as well as pro-IS deportees. She also assists the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) in formulating policies and promoting the creation of a special task force to manage the radicalised pro-IS Indonesian women and children's deportees and returnees.

Dete also assisted the Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme/BNPT) in establishing a woman's working group to promote peace and counter radicalism and violent extremism in some provinces in Indonesia. She has written numerous articles on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) issues such as "The Role of Non-State Security Groups in Securing the Locals from Violent Extremism" (University of Amsterdam, 2019), "The Usage of Corruption as a Tool for Propaganda and Recruitment by Violent Extremism Groups" (2019), and "Radicalism in State Universities" (2019).



Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady is an Assistant Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia, and an Associate Fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), The Hague. He is involved in an ongoing project to develop Malaysia's National Action Plan for Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism (NAPPCVE) initiated by the Institute of Public Security of Malaysia (IPSOM), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Dr. Ahmad is also a member of the Deradicalisation Panel and an Expert/Specialist appointed by MOHA for terrorism cases.

His forthcoming publication (co-authored with Dr Murni Wan Mohd Nor from Universiti Putra Malaysia) is "Radicalisation and Paramilitary Culture: The Case of Wanndy's Telegram Groups in Malaysia" in Brad West and Thomas Crosbie (eds.), *Militarization and the Global Rise of Paramilitary Culture*

Post-Heroic Re-imaginings of the Warrior (Springer, 2021).

Moderator



Dr Noor Huda Ismail is a Visiting Fellow at S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. He is the founder of the Institute for International Peace Building and ruangobrol.id, a start-up community website that promotes alternative narratives as prevention against radicalism and terrorism. Dr. Huda has produced movies as a campaign to fight against terrorism - *Prison and Paradise* (2008), *Jihad Selfie* (2016), *The Bride: The Story of Hope and Love* (2018) and *Seeking the Imam* (2020). He is also working closely with the Hedayah Foundation, Google and Facebook on how to use technology to counter the spread of violence ideology. Huda is a frequent media interviewee and contributor. His recent publications include "Militarised Masculinities beyond Methodological Nationalism: Charting the Multiple Masculinities of an Indonesian Jihad", co-

authored with David Durie Smith (Cambridge University Press, 2019), and "Disrupting Indonesia's Violent Extremism Online Ecosystem: Best Practices from Running A Community Website" (Home Team Journal, 2021).

Attendance to this event is by prior registration only.
For enquiries, please email us at icpvtr@ntu.edu.sg

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU Singapore,
Block S4, Level B3, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798

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