

Enhancing the Role of Religious Education in Countering Violent Extremism in Indonesia – **CONVEY Indonesia**

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CONVEY Indonesia aims to build peace in Indonesia and prevent violent and radical extremism through a series of research-survey, policy advocacy, and public interaction based on the potential of religious education. The CONVEY Indonesia project touches on the issues of tolerance, diversity, and non-violence among youth.

Revitalization of Deradicalization Programs in Prisons: Multi-Stakeholders Cooperation

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Main Messages

- There has not been a thorough assessment of programs held for convicted terrorists in Indonesian correctional institutions or prisons.
- There is no national regulation framework for handling convicted terrorists in prisons.
- This assessment seeks to provide recommendations for related stakeholders.

Why Such Assessment Necessary?

Assessment of deradicalization programs in prisons is important to see the effectivity of the programs for convicted terrorists. Without having a comprehensive evaluation, it is predicted that similar kind of programs in the future will not possess a clear guidelines and thus potentially increase the resistancy of convicted terrorists to participate in similar activities. This assessment seeks to provide recommendations for related stakeholders.

Background

Deradicalization programs held by government or NGOs, still has not shown significant impact. On the contrary, radicalism keeps spreading among societies, including inmates of correctional institutions. Concerning this situation, there should be cooperation involving all parties to frame and solve the so that this situation no longer occurs.

DASPR – Daya Makara UI, in cooperation with PPIM and UNDP Indonesia, has conducted an assessment of several deradicalization programs existed inside prisons or correctional institutions. Through this assessment, all the findings are hoped to be considered as an evidence-based reference while formulating public policies.

Methodology

This research uses qualitative methods such as interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) as data-collection processes. We have interviewed individuals who have been directly involved in deradicalization programs, including the conducting institutions, correctional institute officers, and inmates who have

participated in deradicalization programs. Results of the interviews and FGDs helped us to obtain outlooks and assessments regarding the effectivity and outcomes of the programs. We conducted the interviews and FGDs in separate locations for approximately two months, starting from mid-October until late November of 2017.

Assessment Respondents

- Three target groups with various backgrounds are designated as our respondents:
- Four institutions that have conducted deradicalization programs for convicted terrorists in correctional institutions; Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian (YPP), Search for Common Ground (SFCG), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and Centre for Development Studies (CDS).
- Four correctional institutions and prisons with inmates convicted for terrorism cases and have worked with other institutions to conduct deradicalization programs: Cibinong prison, Pasir Putih prison, Cipinang prison, and Kedungpane prison.

Inmates who have participated in a deradicalization program and resides in one of the prisons above.

Findings

Primary findings of this assessment can be summarized as follows:

There is no clear coordination between institutions of deradicalization programs within correctional institutions, whether governmental and non-governmental or think tank organization. This condition becomes a crucial aspect, considering that coordination in planning, funding, and implementing programs very much determines the blueprints in handling convicted terrorists.

“No need for discussion, (we use) just the assessment. They already understand profiling; questions number 1 and 5 are going to be questioned, since they’ve done them before over and over again. They already know, so they have memorized (the questions) in advance.”

(Cipinang Correctional Institute staff).

Another finding is that there is no clarity—in the form of government regulation—on which party holds primary authority and responsibility for the implementation of deradicalization programs in correctional institutions. There is a dualism of authority in practical levels between the National Counter Terrorism Agency (*Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme - BNPT*) and the Directorate General of Correction. This condition severely affects the line of communication of deradicalization program within correctional facilities which implemented by external parties such as NGOs or research institutions.

“Yes, procedures must go through the Directorate General of Corrections. An MoU needs to be taken first with the Directorate. Directorate should be the only gate. However, there were a few, last time—I’ll just mention them by name. (They were) from the PRIK. The first time PRIK got herewe always accompanied by someone from the Directorate.”

(Semarang Institution staff)

Regarding the capacity of personnels in prisons,

we found that there is a lack of uniformity in the implementation guidelines and individual criteria for chaplains (counselor for inmates on social and spiritual issues) in carrying out their role as advisors for convicted terrorists. This can lead to variations in the effectivity of deradicalization programs between each correctional facility. The chaplains were not chosen based on capability, but rather on direct appointment of the warden. Furthermore, the chaplains do not have a clear and structural career ladder. They are more likely however to be threatened by the convicts and their network or even exposed to radicalism.

“The officers called chaplains are not yet included in the structure, only chosen by the warden without any clear criteria. There are no structures, not even incentives. It’s pretty vague indeed, pity them.”

(Directorate General of Corrections staff)

With regard to the technical aspect of the deradicalization program, an investigation of the convicted terrorist demography within prisons facility is needed for accuracy. The effectivity and responses of the convicts towards deradicalization programs are vary in each topic. Furthermore, the transfer of convicted terrorists to another facility, with such limited coordination between program providers, resulted in the lack of monitoring initiatives for long period of time.

“The fostering program should ideally initiate dialog. Encourage them to disengage (from violence), not only concerning on their economic issues. Only one or two who still need support for the economy. While the rest of us are not limited to economic problems. I myself, even though I never lived rich—lacking, in fact—I never worry about economic issues. The important part of this fostering is that later it can be visioned for the boarding school, for the better of Muslim society. For the neighborhood become more Islamic.”

(Cibinong Institution convicted terrorist inmate)

Finding interesting topics that can attract all convicted terrorist is another challenge. From the findings of the research, We can conclude

that themes of discussion relate to clash ideologies resulted to their refusal to participate or eyeing only to obtain a remission or probation.

“First, what’s the continuation of this activity? Because our friends usually (staff) host the event once a month or two, while we interact to this thinking or ideology not just for one or two days. We’ve wrestled with this for a while, not just one or two days. Truthfully, we wish our friends have intention to, well, open discussion with other believers so that what we think, and what we understand now can be more open to critics from others, or we can share our thoughts to reach a mutual understanding. For our friends, we’re actually quite open to discussion, Allah be willing. Not for having things forced on us. Enforcing a certain belief, in our discussion, is no longer mutual (communication); it’s bringing a fixed truth that is imposed here. This is what you need to understand. True, in our discussion that, among the Ulama (Muslim scholars), we enter the topic of *ushul* (principles). Yet we just having wrog perspectives.”

(Cipinang Institution convicted terrorist inmate)

“Yes, ‘if you want discussion then let’s discuss.’ We’ve said this often to the folks at BNPT who might have more facilities to conduct an event such as if you want to discuss then let’s do it directly, live (transparent) maybe, so that other people know too, don’t make it a close-minded discussion. Now, truth, especially regarding Islam; so far, we have acted in the name of Islam. What we wish is for everything we do is in line with the teachings of Islam. Yes, we understand that wemay have made mistakes; you can presentscholars from other organizations. Give us insights but, once again, not by enforcing things on us. It’s a discussion after all.”

(Cipinang Institution convicted terrorist inmate).

An approach taken by one participant of the assessment program, Search for

Common Ground, give a new paradigm in CVE programs within correctional facilities: 1) inclusive programs not specifically aimed only for convicted terrorists, and 2) bring up topics that are not confrontative towards terrorists’ ideologies. Based on this finding, the research team choose to support the Conflict Management Training and Life Management Training programs implemented by Search for Common Ground in several correctional institutions in Indonesia, as a best practice for deradicalization programs in prisons.

“Maybe the inmates are not confident enough to talk or interact. However, one time there was an event from Common Ground; everyone talked about their desires after being released or while inside (the institution).”

(Cipinang Institution inmate)”

“The program of the Common Ground is CMT-LMT. Conflict Management Training. That received a positive reception from the inmates here. They can explore the program model. They even want the module. Wanting a model means expecting to apply it in other facilities.”

(Semarang Correctional Institute staff)

Recommendations

Based on the results of the preceding studies (assessment), these policy recommendations primarily address for government entities (Ministry of Law and Human Rights, National Counter Terrorism Agency) are as follows:

1 Formulation of Legal Framework

Stakeholders must codify a legal framework that provide a clear jurisdiction which parties possess main authority and responsibility in the handling of convicted terrorists in prisons. This is vital as it expected to be able to prevent miscoordination in conducting deradicalization programs. Moreover, this legal framework can draw lines of communication between conducting bodies as well as the outline of the planning syllabus.

The Directorate General of Correction holds a significant role in this issue, therefore DASPR Daya Makara UI recommends the Directorate General as primary stakeholder for the handling of convicted terrorists as well as deradicalization programs which implemented internally or externally (involving other institutions).

2 Building capacity of personnels

The fact is that there is an inequality among the correctional facilities' staffs and chaplains in supervising and fostering convicted terrorists, as well as there is a concern that they are more likely being exposed to radical ideologies. This has led DASPR Daya Makara UI recommends for the involvement of many stakeholders to formulate and implement capacity building programs for the staffs and chaplains in carrying out their duty to supervise the convicted terrorists. This capacity building includes improvement of their understanding of radicalism and how to counter it as well as improve their knowledge and skill in fostering the inmates outside of ideological matters. Other than increasing capacity, the staff that directly handles the prisoner—chaplains—

should be given an formal status in the structure of institutional employment as well as an incentive for its particular responsibility and authority.

3 Refinement of the Contents and Form of Deradicalization Program

- The form and topics rotated within the deradicalization programs of in prisons are diverse; the same stands for their effectivity. DASPR Daya Makara UI recommends the proliferation of programs that:
- are inclusive and involves regular inmates,
- are suitable with the convicted terrorist demography in each prison,
- do not attempt to clash multiple Islamic ideologies,

have specific aims to foster a specific behavior.

From this completed assessments, it is important to note that the government supports Conflict Management Training - Life Management Training (CMT-LMT) pioneered by Search for Common Ground as a worthwhile program to maintain in assessed correctional institutions' deradicalization program.



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