



# The Pitfall of Counterterrorism: Interagency Turf War in Indonesia

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### Introduction

Indonesia's counterterrorism establishments consist of a complex set of agencies. The interactions between governmental and non-governmental agencies affect the implementation of policies. Unfortunately, unhealthy competitions among the agencies tend to jeopardize the efforts.

### Objective

This research trip aims to understand the underlying reasons of the competitions. The research will discuss the development since the beginning of Reformation era until recently. Hence, archival studies and interviews are pivotal to support the study. I visited the National Library in Jakarta and also interviewed various relevant actors.

### Methodology

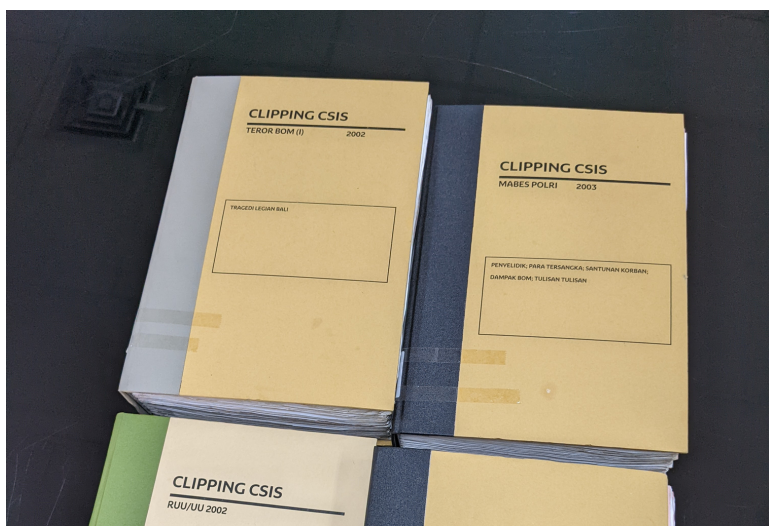
I employed process-tracing method to identify the intervening variables which causes the complex interactions and unintended competitions among relevant stakeholders. I conduct archival studies and interviews to find the data.

### Locations

- Universitas Indonesia, Depok
- The National Counterterrorism Agency, Sentul, Bogor
- The National Library, Salemba
- and various locations in Depok and Jakarta

## Research Activities

### Archival Studies at The National Library



I collected data from the National Library through the clippings of old newspapers. I mainly studied the clippings on the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) in 1999, The Bali Bombing 2002, and the Debates on the Bill of Terrorism Law in 2002 and 2003. I discovered that the debates have not significantly changed in the past twenty years. For instance, many articles highlights the CSOs' concerns over the fear of the military's role in internal security.

### Interview with relevant actors



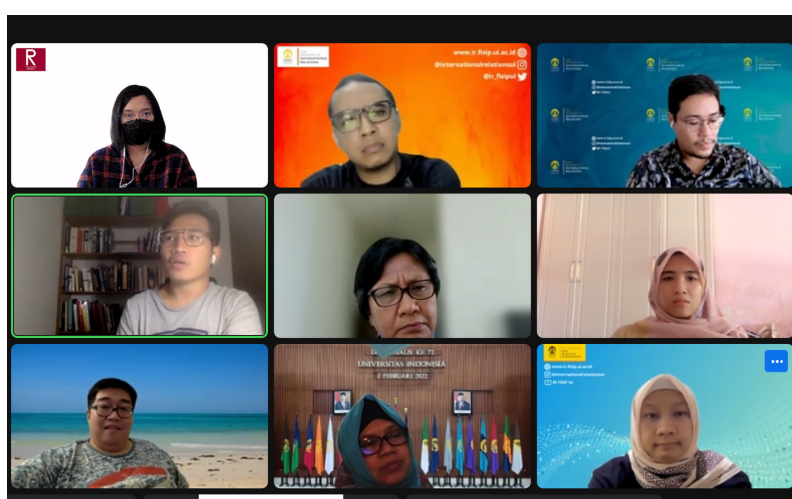
I interviewed a number of governmental officials from the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I also interviewed various prominent scholars who were involved in the early Reformation era's CSOs. I discovered that perennial problems of lack of coordination and sharing of information among relevant agencies. I also learnt that the change of characteristics of CSOs over the years.

### Focus Group Discussions



I briefly joined a Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) on the formulation of institutional's regulation on the intelligence community's role in counterterrorism in Indonesia. I learnt about the complex process of identifying the profile of terrorist inmates, their families, hometown, and also suitable reintegration programmes upon their release from the prison. There is also an urgent need to strengthen the cooperation with regional governments and CSOs.

### Networking



I had a short fellowship programme at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia. I visited the campus a few times to meet with the lecturers. They gave me some advices on whom I should interview for my research. They also allowed me to join the monthly discussions which is limited to internal staff and lecturers. They also invited me to publish a short commentary on their platform.

### Preliminary Findings

1. The debates on counterterrorism policy has not significantly changed in the past two decades
2. Indonesia's approach in implementing counterterrorism policy tends to be Jakarta-centric or Java-centric
3. There is an integrated problem that aims to solve the problem of overlapping responsibilities but it is still far from perfect.

### Plan for Future Research

1. Visit other regions in Indonesia to interview local CSOs, such as Poso, Central Sulawesi and Lamongan, East Java
2. Interview other relevant government officials and Civil Society Organisations
3. Visit the Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCELC) in Semarang, Central Java