



Diplomacy in Countering Terrorism: an Analysis of Indonesia-Australia Bilateral Consultations on Combating Terrorism

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ABSTRACT

Throughout history, Indonesia and Australia have faced various terrorist incidents that threatened the peace and security of both nations. In response to these threats, Indonesia and Australia have forged cooperation in counterterrorism efforts, including through the "Indonesia-Australia Ministerial Council on Law and Security" forum, which has been held since 2015. The establishment of this forum aims to enhance security and intelligence cooperation to counter terrorism. Inspired by this initiative, the purpose of this research is to analyze the outcomes and impacts of security cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in addressing security and terrorism challenges. This research takes the form of qualitative descriptive study. It will explore the details and types of cooperation supported by primary data and interview. By applying the concepts of counterterrorism cooperation and neoliberalism theory, the author's analysis highlights various forms of cooperation, the positive impacts of counterterrorism cooperation between Indonesia and Australia, and their implications for future security. The timeframe applies on this research article starts from 2015 until 2023. The author hoped that this research will provide a better understanding of the quality of counterterrorism cooperation between Indonesia and Australia, and provide a basis for future security policy planning

Keywords: *Counterterrorism, Indonesia, Australia, Cooperation, Security*

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism has occurred in various places over time. The commonly understood definition of "terrorism" refers to acts of terror involving violence perpetrated by individuals or groups against civilians to intimidate the general public (Schmid, 2021). Acts of terror have also taken place in Indonesia, with one of the deadliest incidents in history being the Bali Bombing of 2002 (NMA, 2023). This terrorist attack resulted in 202 fatalities, including 88 Australian nationals and 38 Indonesian nationals (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2014). Within three years, Indonesia and Australia experienced three significant terrorist events (ABC, 2015). The two subsequent attacks—the bombing of the Australian Embassy in 2004 and the Bali Bombing II in 2005—also resulted in casualties and material damage, though not as severe as the first Bali bombing (AIDR, 2005).

Motivated by these three terrorist incidents, Indonesia and Australia initiated bilateral counterterrorism cooperation. This cooperation was formalized with the signing of the Lombok Treaty in 2006, which was ratified by both countries the following year, thereby enhancing bilateral cooperation on counterterrorism and security (Munabari, Hikam, & Ramadhani, 2021). In the wake of the Bali Bombing I, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) was deemed inadequately equipped to handle such terrorist incidents. Consequently, Australia became one of the largest donors in improving Indonesia's law enforcement infrastructure for counterterrorism. Detachment 88, an elite



counterterrorism unit, was established in 2003 with financial support from the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and the Australian Federal Police. The creation of Detachment 88 represents a "hard approach" to counterterrorism. In general, counterterrorism strategies involve two main approaches: the "soft approach" and the "hard approach." Indonesia's Law No. 15 of 2003 on Counterterrorism, which was later revised into Law No. 5 of 2018, outlines measures for counterterrorism efforts (Erianto, 2023). Additionally, the establishment of the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) in 2010 marked a commitment to addressing terrorism through a "soft approach."

The annual meetings, such as the "Indonesia-Australia Ministerial Council on Law and Security" and the "International Meeting on Counter-Terrorism (IMCT)," exemplify the strong relationship between Australia and Indonesia in combating terrorism. Reflecting on the history of bilateral cooperation between the Indonesian and Australian governments in counterterrorism, this scientific article aims to highlight the crucial role of bilateral cooperation in addressing the threat of terrorism. High-level meetings held over the years have sought to find the most effective solutions and strategies to address security issues, particularly extremism that escalates into terrorism, posing a danger to society. Based on the introduction, the purpose of this scientific article is to analyze the evolution of counterterrorism policies implemented by the Indonesian and Australian governments over eight-year period (2015 to 2023).

METHODS

On writing this research article, the author chose a descriptive research approach. This choice is made because the article focuses on analyzing and comparing the evolution of bilateral counterterrorism cooperation policies which occur between the governments of Indonesia and Australia over eight-year time period (from 2015 to 2023). The author employs a qualitative method as it is well-suited for describing the various forms of cooperation, where both primary and secondary data are available in the form of written documentation as well as direct interviews with key informants. For the primary data on writing this paper, the author obtained the research data from Detachment 88 AT Polri.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several past researches have discussed about Australia-Indonesia bilateral relationships on counter terrorism field. The author did read and analyzed three relevant research paper on writing this scientific article. The first literature is a research article published in the Journal of Global Transformation (JTG) titled "Australia-Indonesia Counter-Terrorism Cooperation" by Adhi Cahya Fahadayna, published in 2018. This literature discusses the counter- terrorism cooperation between Australia and Indonesia as a response to numerous threats and incidents of terrorism. The theories applied in this study include the theory of Islamic radicalization and the Regional Security Complex Theory by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver. This literature explores the counter-terrorism cooperation undertaken by the Australian and Indonesian governments, culminating in the 2006 Lombok Treaty. It also addresses the challenges faced by Indonesia in countering terrorism due to a lack of prior experience and the emergence of terrorism driven by extremist Islamic groups in Indonesia (Fahadayna, 2018).

The second literature is titled "Counter-Narrative Strategies in Deradicalisation: A Content Analysis of Indonesia's Anti-Terrorism Laws" by Joko Setiyono and Sulaiman Rasyid, published in 2022. The main focus of this literature is the analysis of the evolution of strategies implemented in counterterrorism efforts in Indonesia. The approach used in this study is quantitative, analyzing numerical data on the number of terrorism incidents that have occurred and linking them to existing legal regulations (Setiyono & Rasyid, 2022)

The discovery in this research indicate that existing antiterrorism regulations are often related to criminal activities. The high incidence rate has led to a greater emphasis on hard approaches in handling terrorism cases. However, there is a significant shift after 2013. In the following years, the regulations for handling and prevention became more oriented towards soft and preventive approaches, such as deradicalization programs (Setiyono & Rasyid, 2022).

The third literature used as a reference for this research is titled "The Indonesia- Australia Partnership to Counter Radicalism and Terrorism Issues in Indonesia," published in 2022. The main subject analyzed in this scholarly journal is the actions of the Australian government in combating terrorism in partnership with the Indonesian government as a key ally. This study adopts the perspective of the Australian government in establishing counterterrorism cooperation with Indonesia. The authors of this journal apply neoclassical realist theory to analyze the phenomena under investigation (Maksum & Sjahputra, 2022). The context of this journal highlights the importance of Australia's partnership with Indonesia, which ultimately has positive implications for counterterrorism efforts in Indonesia. The paper also explains the main implications on motivation of Australia in establishing bilateral cooperation that has been ongoing for two decades.

Based on the three previous literatures the author did choose as a guide for this research, all of three research articles used as inspirations for writing this research article discuss topic which encompasses from the radicalization that developed into terrorist act, challenges faced by two actors in combating terrorism to the strategies that have been implemented on bilateral cooperation. Common things which those literature have is discussing about Indonesia-Australia relationship on counterterrorism cooperation. Therefore, the author states that this scientific paper focuses on the type of counterterrorism cooperation that occurred between Australia and Indonesia during the period of 2015 until 2023.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theory of neoliberalism emphasizes that cooperation between two entities or countries in the context of counterterrorism can bring greater benefits to both or more parties involved (McGlinchey, Walters, & Scheinpflug, 2017). Neoliberalism posits that the international system is structured and systematic, which facilitates the initiation of cooperation between two or more countries. Neoliberalism offers several advantages in explaining the importance of bilateral cooperation (Keohane & Martin, 1995). Six advantages to be exact; first advantage is cost efficiency. Having cost efficiency when conducting cooperation based on common grounds will reduce cost and making cooperation easier. Second advantages is institutions ability to provide information to

their members. The importance of information sharing within an institution helps to reduce fears about the distribution of outcomes and creates a sense of security for all parties involved. The third advantage is the ease of coordination. Coordination within an institution can simplify the process of establishing important agreements, ensuring that all parties can agree on the outcomes of the cooperation. In certain situations, the involved parties must coordinate when faced with multiple options. The fourth advantage is the certainty of commitment. A concrete framework provides assurance in carrying out the results of the cooperation. This leads to a sense of trust in maintaining the cooperative relationship. The fifth advantage of institution is serving as a mediator in disputes. The presence of an institution in handling disputes within a partnership ensures that outcomes are distributed fairly. The sixth and last advantage of having an institution is its role as a platform that facilitates reciprocal activities. This ensures that each party can gain fair benefits from the collaboration, which can have positive effects on future cooperation. The benefits provided by institutions highlight that the aforementioned advantages are particularly applicable to security issues, including those related to counterterrorism. By leveraging these institutional strengths, nations can enhance their collaborative efforts to address and mitigate the threat of terrorism more effectively (Keohane & Martin, 1995).

A strong institutional framework not only enhances the general security environment but also provides a structured foundation for specific cooperative efforts, such as counterterrorism initiatives. Building on this institutional foundation, the concept of bilateral counterterrorism cooperation can be effectively categorized into key areas, including capacity building, law enforcement, and intelligence sharing, which are essential for sustainable and impactful collaboration.

The concept of cooperation outlines five classifications: capacity building, law enforcement cooperation, intelligence cooperation, legislative cooperation, and joint counterterrorism operations. The crucial role of capacity building in establishing counterterrorism cooperation between two countries serves as a foundation for creating sustainable collaboration. Effective capacity building not only strengthens the overall framework but also enhances other forms of cooperation. This includes legislative cooperation, where bilateral efforts can lead to the development and implementation of counterterrorism laws. Law enforcement cooperation is equally important, allowing national and federal police forces to work together in tracking and apprehending terrorism suspects before incidents occur. Additionally, intelligence cooperation facilitates the exchange of crucial information about suspect movements between the countries. Finally, joint counterterrorism operations enable law enforcement agencies from both nations to engage in collaborative training exercises, such as military drills and intelligence activities. With combining these components contribute to a robust and effective counterterrorism strategy.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The evolution of Indonesia and Australia bilateral cooperation from year to year has resulted in various kind of cooperation. From capacity building on building infrastructure on combating terrorism, cooperation with two states law enforcement, intelligence cooperation to joint counterterrorism operations that happened multiple times during the eight-year time period. The basic purpose of bilateral counterterrorism cooperation is when two or more countries initiate counterterrorism cooperation, the collaboration typically involves matters such as intelligence gathering, military cooperation, and border security. This cooperation framework encompasses various dimensions, allowing for a more structured approach to addressing terrorism effectively. Based on the main purpose of bilateral counterterrorism cooperation, counterterrorism cooperation can be divided into five types (Biswas, 2009). In this part, the author explores the evolution and analysis of three types of counterterrorism cooperation. The author was able to analyze two types of cooperation based on the data obtained from the Detachment 88 of Indonesian National Police (Polri) as the primary source. These two types with a comprise capacity building and law enforcement cooperation with the minor addition of joint counterterrorism cooperation.

Capacity Building

The development of capacity-building initiatives to combat terrorism has been in progress since 2004. Specifically, between 2015 and 2023, numerous capacity- building programs have been implemented between Indonesia and Australia. One ongoing initiative within this bilateral counterterrorism cooperation is the establishment of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in 2004 (Fahadayna, 2018). JCLEC was established as a training center to address both conventional and unconventional terrorism threats (Barton, 2018). Over the past two decades, JCLEC has trained over 38,000 participants from 85 countries. The presence of JCLEC has significantly enhanced counterterrorism cooperation between Indonesia and Australia, thanks to its successful organization of workshops, training sessions, and other activities aimed at combating transnational crime, particularly terrorism. The creation of JCLEC and the signing of the Lombok Treaty in 2006 highlight the commitment of Indonesia and Australia to bilateral cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. The various forms of collaboration detailed below demonstrate the evolving partnership between Indonesia and Australia across different sectors.

No	Programs Name	Time
1.	Indonesia and Australia on Becoming Joint Chairman on Global Counterterrorism Forum	2015 - present
2.	Australia-Indonesia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 Dialogue in Sydney, Australia	21 December 2015
3.	International Meeting on Counter-Terrorism (IMCT) in Bali, Indonesia	August 2016
4.	The fifth Australia-Indonesia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 in Sydney, Australia	16 March 2018
5.	The Foreign Terrorist Fighter Intelligence Working Group di Davao, Phillipines	March 12 th – 14 th 2019
6.	The 4 th Regional Social Media Working Group Meeting in Cebu, Philippines	September 24 th – 26 th 2019
7.	Counter Terrorism Leaders Forum in Cebu, Philippines	October 7 th – 10 th 2019
8.	Regional Social Media Working Group (Counter Terrorism) in Phuket, Thailand	February 4 th – 6 th 2020
9.	Call for Nomination for The Southeast Asia Bomb Data Center Working Group Meeting (SEABDCWG) and Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI) Annual Conference in Canberra, Australia	March 2 nd – 6 th 2020
10.	Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Jakarta	April 9 th 2021
11.	The 18th APEC Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) Third Senior Official’s Meeting (SOM 3) in New Zealand	August 19 th 2021
12.	2022 Foreign Fighter Working Group in Bangkok, Thailand	May 24 th – 26 th 2022
13.	2022 Counter-Terrorism Leader Forum in Krabi, Thailand	June 7 th – 10 th 2022
14.	The 2 nd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Working Group AFP-INP in Jakarta	August 25 th 2022

15.	“Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 VIP Reception and Navy Ceremonial Sunset” in North Jakarta	November 25 th 2022
16.	The 11 th Senior Official Meeting (SOM) AFP – Polri in Sydney, Australia	March 7 th – 8 th 2023
17.	Strategic Level Meetings, High Level Briefing with Various AFP Leaders Relating to the Current CT Environment in Australia Sydney, Australia	March 9 th – 14 th 2023

Table 1 – Capacity Building Programs. Source: Detachment 88 (2024)

The table above presents a list of bilateral counterterrorism cooperation activities which focused on capacity building. The types of cooperation activities include the involvement of Indonesia and Australia in co-chairing counterterrorism forums, being host of working group events, organizing Forum Group Discussions, and conducting Senior Officials Meetings that involve key leaders.

Based on the authors decision on choosing 8-year time period for this scientific paper, the author starts this subchapter on unraveling the occasion when Indonesia and Australia became joint chairman on Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). The first capacity building cooperation within this time period started in 2015. Indonesia and Australia continued their bilateral cooperation within the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), with Indonesia serving as co-chair. One of the implementations of this bilateral cooperation was co-hosting a workshop with Australia which occurred on November 2015 (U.S Department of State, 2016).

Proceeding to the next year, the second capacity building program is when Indonesia and Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers conducted the Australia- Indonesia Foreign and Defence Ministers 2+2 Dialogue which took place in Sydney, Australia. This dialogue was the third 2+2 dialogue which had been held 3 times since 2013. In the dialogue’s results, the counter terrorism and cyber security part declared which one of the points mentioned the signing of “Memorandum of Understanding on Combating International Terrorism”. The result was both parties expressed approval on signing the MoU which served as a foundation for the collaboration until the year 2018 (Australian Embassy Indonesia, 2015).

The third program, which also occurred in 2016; Indonesia was the host for The International Meeting on Counter-Terrorism (IMCT) that conducted in Bali, Indonesia. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the assessment of handling cross-border terrorism financing. An additional topic discussed in the same conference was the effort to prevent the entry of foreign terrorist fighter (FTF). The Australian government stated that the delegacy would take part in efforts to stop the circulation of money on terrorism



financing in the Southeast Asia region (Muhajir, 2016). The results of this conference stated that Australia and Indonesia would hold follow-up meetings on a smaller scale based on the IMCT 2016 meeting (Veronika, 2021).

The fourth program, The fifth Australia-Indonesia Foreign and Defense Ministers 2+2 Meeting in 2018. The fifth 2+2 meeting which involved Australia and Indonesia on discussing the necessity of ongoing regional cooperation to strengthen security quality against terrorism threats. A significant topic discussed was the impact of the Marawi incident on enhancing counter-terrorism efforts in the region. Starting a collaboration with the Philippines is essential to prevent terrorism in the area. Additionally, the Australian Department of Defence opened opportunities for both countries to discuss counter-terrorism cooperation at the ASEAN-Special Summit Counter-Terrorism Conference (Australian Government Defence, 2018).

The fifth program is the “Foreign Terrorist Fighter Intelligence Working Group” in Davao, Philippines. A working group program working group that discusses cross- border terrorism issues. The members of this working group are not limited by regional boundaries. This working group has a joint task of gathering information, sharing data, and planning strategies to combat foreign terrorist threats. The sixth program is the “4th Regional social media Working Group Meeting” which took place in Cebu, Philippines. This working group on counter-terrorism which discusses and formulates policies to address extremism spread through social media. This working group is regional, with participation limited to countries within the same region. The seventh program within this capacity building cooperation is “Counter Terrorism Leaders Forum” in Cebu, Philippines. A gathering of experts and representatives from Southeast Asian countries which being held in October 2019. The gathering purpose is to discuss and exchange information on bomb data and its impact on counter-terrorism efforts.

The eighth program is “Regional Social Media Working Group (Counter Terrorism)”. A working group gathering held in Phuket, Thailand on February 2020. The program which focused on discussing and addressing the challenges and opportunities involving terrorism issues posed by social media in the Southeast Asian region. The ninth program is “Call for Nomination for The Southeast Asia Bomb Data Center Working Group Meeting (SEABDCWG) and Weapons Technical Intelligence (WTI) Annual Conference” in Canberra, Australia. The annual conference is an assembly of specialists and delegates from Southeast Asian nations. The conference’s main goal is to discuss and exchange information on bomb data and its impact on counter-terrorism initiatives (Detachment 88, Interview 2 [Operational Cooperation Between Indonesia and Australia Year 2019-2022], 2024).

The tenth program is Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The FGD took place in Jakarta in 2021. A discussion forum involving experts, law enforcement officers, and other relevant parties to deeply explore issues related to the prosecution of terrorism cases. The eleventh program is the 18th APEC Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) Third Senior Official’s Meeting (SOM 3). The related meetings took place in New Zealand, mainly discussed about the evaluation on counter terrorism policies and approvals of both the Terms of Reference and the 2021 Work Plan. Indonesia brought attention to three key



issues: the exploitation of the internet for terrorist purposes, including financing; the need to empower women and incorporate gender perspectives in counter-terrorism strategies; and the importance of engaging youth in efforts to prevent and combat terrorism (BNPT, 2021). The meeting highlighted the Counter- Terrorism Working Group’s crucial role as a forum for exchanging policies, information, experiences, and best practices to enhance collective counter-terrorism efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

The twelfth implementation is the 2022 Foreign Fighter Working Group in Bangkok, Thailand. A working group meeting held in May 2022, A multilateral platform consisting of representatives from different countries to discuss the issue of foreign fighters. These foreign fighters are individuals who travel to conflict zones to engage in armed conflicts, often motivated by extremist ideologies. The thirteenth implementation is the 2022 Counter-Terrorism Leader Forum in Krabi, Thailand. A summit attended by leaders and senior officials, including law enforcement officers from various countries to discuss terrorism-related issues. This forum aims to enhance international cooperation in combating terrorism, share information and experiences, and develop strategies for preventing and countering terrorism.

The fourteenth capacity building program is the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Working Group AFP-INP in Jakarta. A high-level meeting which involves senior officials from Australia and Indonesia who are part of the second working group of their bilateral partnership. The fifteenth capacity building program implementation is “Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 VIP Reception and Navy Ceremonial Sunset” in North Jakarta. A Diplomatic and military-themed activities with participants from countries in the Indo-Pacific region aimed at strengthening relationships between countries in the Indo-Pacific region (Australian Embassy , 2022). The Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) series made Indonesia the final stop in its 2022 event. This year, IPE held a Women, Peace, and Security Seminar on the HMAS Adelaide, which was docked at Tanjung Priok Port.

The sixteenth program is the 11th Senior Official Meeting (SOM) AFP – Polri in Sydney, Australia. he meeting between the Indonesian National Police (Polri) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) included the signing of a new agreement on handling cybercrime and intelligence sharing (AFP, 2023). The Indonesian side was represented by General Listyo Sigit Prabowo, accompanied by nearly 30 senior officers, while the Australian side was represented by AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw. The mentioned Senior Official Meeting continues the cooperation program in preventing and handling terrorism case, human trafficking, transnational crime, cybercrime, and furthermore. The seventeenth and the most recent implementation within the time period is “Strategic Level Meetings, High Level Briefing with Various AFP Leaders Relating to the Current CT Environment in Australia”. Meeting took place in Sydney, Australia.

Law Enforcement Cooperation

Another form of counter-terrorism cooperation is law enforcement cooperation. Excellent capacity building is vital in assembling law enforcement infrastructure on facing counter terrorism threats. Within the eight-year time period, Australia and Indonesia have numerous cooperation which involves law enforcement officer. Programs such as sub-regional meeting, workshop, and courses that trains law enforcement officer to do proper

crime scene management. The following table is the summary of law enforcement officers of two states’ cooperation in attempts to combat international crime, including terrorism.

No	Programs Name	Time
1.	First Sub-Regional Meeting on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Cross Border Terrorism di Manado, Indonesia	July 2017
2.	Regional Bomb Crime Scene Management in Semarang	February 26 th – March 2 nd 2018
3.	(Regional Bomb Crime Scene Management in Semarang	March 5 – 9 th 2018
4.	Pre-Course Workshop, Australia Award Scholarship Policies for the Disengagement and Rehabilitation of Violent Extremists Short Term Award di Semarang	October 2 nd – 4 th 2018
5.	Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism: Responding to Evolving Terrorist Strategies and Tactics	November 2018
6.	Vessel Search Course, sponsored by JCLEC and ABF Year 2019	February 14 th 2019
7.	Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award: Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists 2019-2020	September 1 st – December 6 th 2019
8.	The launching of Indonesia Knowledge Hub on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Platform (I-Khub on CT/VE)	October 19 th 2020
9.	Senior Leadership Course in Australia	May 1 st – 5 th 2023
10.	Leadership in Counter Terrorism Conference by LINCT-AA in Las Vegas, United States of America	May 31 st – June 2 nd 2023

11.	Foreign Fighter Working Group and The Regional Socmed Working Group in Indonesia	June 12 th – 16 th 2023
12.	Leadership Training in Jakarta	October 16 th – 20 th 2023

Table 2 – List of Law Enforcement Cooperation. Source: Detachment 88 (2024)

Based on the author research and data compilation, on the time period from the year 2015 to 2023, there have been twelve sort of law enforcement cooperation. In describing this type of cooperations, the author begins with “The First Sub-Regional Meeting on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Cross Border Terrorism.”

The first law enforcement cooperation, which is a sub-regional meeting took place in Manado in the year 2017. The purpose of this meeting discussed about the feasible risk on the return of foreign terrorist fighter. The meeting results a consensus on securitization of the threat, specifically about the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their origin’s country. The second and the third type of cooperation is the course on managing crime scene that involves explosive material (bomb). In the year 2018, The Detachment 88 of Indonesian National Police (Polri) personnel were involved in two training courses which sponsored by JCLEC, based on Semarang, Indonesia (Detachment 88, Interview 3 [Joint Training Programs with Detachment 88], 2024). Both courses took place in the year 2018. In both courses, The Detachment 88 sent two personnel for each course training. In total, there were four personnels sent by Detachment 88 to have bomb management training.

The Fourth cooperation which took place in the late 2018 is “The Pre-Course Workshop, Australia Award Scholarship Policies for the Disengagement and Rehabilitation of Violent Extremists Short Term Award”. The pre-course, part of the workshop was sponsored by the Australian Embassy (Australia Awards Indonesia, 2018). The pre-course activities were held in Semarang, where Detachment 88 sent 2 personnel to be participants in the pre-course focused on the initial preparation for each personnel award project (Detachment 88, Interview 3 [Joint Training Programs with Detachment 88], 2024).

The fifth cooperation between Indonesia and Australia’s law enforcement agency is “Sub-Regional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism: Responding to Evolving Terrorist Strategies and Tactics.” The 2018 sub-regional meeting which was being held on November 2018 mainly discussed about expanding strategies on countering- terrorism within regional scale to prevent the spread of terrorist networks and strengthen communities in facing the misuse of the internet for spreading terrorist ideologies. The partnership aims to present inclusive policies in countering violent extremism (CVE), that also involving women, children, and families as agents to prevent violence-based extremism (New Zealand Government, 2018).

The sixth cooperation within law enforcement cooperation umbrella is “Vessel Search Course by JCLEC and ABF Year 2019”. A joint training in the form of a vessel search course organized by the collaboration between JCLEC (Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation) and ABF (Australian Border Force). The course was attended by 18 law enforcement personnel from Indonesia and Timor-Leste and 6 cadets from PIP (PIP



Semarang, 2019). The purpose of this training is to enhance the skills and knowledge of the course participants in conducting vessel searches.

The seventh program is “Australia Awards in Indonesia - Short Term Award: Policies for the disengagement and rehabilitation of violent extremists 2019-2020”. The course was held in 2019 focused on training, development, and implementation of policies related to the rehabilitation programs for extremist detainees. The main objective of this course was to provide training and technical knowledge to law enforcement officers and government agency members involved in the policy-making and execution of radicalism handling. The 2019 course, sponsored by Monash University, was conducted in Australia for approximately 2 weeks (Australia Awards Indonesia, 2019). Participants visited the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, the Lowy Institute, Multicultural New South Wales, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Australian National University. The course participants gained firsthand experience by observing the rehabilitation process of terrorism detainees in Australian prisons. They also received training from practitioners working in the Victoria Police, Victoria Prisons, and the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

The eighth program is “The launching of Indonesia Knowledge Hub on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Platform (I-Khub on CT/VE). The launch event of the I-Khub platform, which has small contribution by the Australian government occurred in October 2020. This platform, a result of collaboration among various parties including the Australian government, aims to facilitate planning and implementation among ministries, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector (BNPT, 2020). The existence of I-Khub is a positive step in the prevention and mitigation of terrorism. Implementation and coordination in facing terrorism become more measurable, observable, and directed.

The ninth program is “Senior Leadership Course” held in Australia. A leadership course in which members of Detachment 88 AT Polri participated in a leadership training where being held in Australia. The purpose of this leadership course is to train and develop the participants’ abilities, skills, and knowledge in leadership. The tenth implementation program is “Leadership in Counter Terrorism Conference”. The conference which was held in Las Vegas, United States from May 31st to June 2nd 2023. The annual conference is organized by the non-profit organization called the Leadership in Counter Terrorism Alumni Association (LINCT-AA). The year 2023 conference main topic was information operations, across border crime, and the most crucial is violent extremism and terrorism issues. The LINCT-AA organization collaborates with intelligence experts, military, and law enforcement to enhance inter- agency cooperation in combating and preventing terrorism incidents (Linct-AA, 2023).

The eleventh program is “Foreign Fighter Working Group and The Regional Social Media Working Group” held in Malaysia. Both programs were held in Malaysia on June 2023. The Foreign Fighter Working Group is a special working group formed to address the issue of individuals traveling to conflict zones to join extremist groups (Detachment 88, Interview 1 [Detachment 88 - Operational Cooperation Between Indonesia and Australia Year 2023], 2024). Meanwhile The Regional Social Media Working Group is a team specifically established to monitor, analyze, and counter the misuse of social media by

extremist and terrorist groups in a particular region.

The twelfth program is “Leadership Training Course” held in Indonesia. This leadership training course which held in October 2023 is a training course for law enforcement officers, including Detachment 88 personnel to have training on improving leadership quality on combating across nation crime, including violent extremism and act of terrorism.

Views On Counterterrorism Implementation’s Evolution

Reaching this point, the author’s thoughts on the mentioned capacity building and law enforcement cooperation which happened in the eight-year time period; are necessary to improve the quality on combating terrorism. Due to the importance of the security issues specifically in countering terrorism, the cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in countering terrorism need to be continued. Both parties have similarities and expertise on facing counter terrorism issues. The establishment of JCLEC in 2004 and the 2006 Lombok Treaty showed Indonesia and Australia bilateral cooperation (Australian DFAT, 2012). Hence the initiation of numerous new cooperation in the time period of 2015 until 2023.

Looking from the implementation examples which showed on the previous chapters, the list of implementation programs from Indonesia-Australia cooperation is more leaning towards on *soft approach*. This approach means that anything involves in combating terrorism is prioritizing on preventing and handling through non-violence approach. Activities such as working group, joint training, workshop, and joint operations between law enforcement agency are more dominant in soft approach method. This can be supported with one of previous studies used by author on writing this paper. Post 2013, there was a shift on combating terrorism. The shift happened where law enforcement start leaning in favor for soft approach (Setiyono & Rasyid, 2022). The deradicalization programs on former terrorist; the increasing training course for law enforcement officer are increasing than ever.



Picture 1 – Chart on Indonesia Law Enforcement Actions Number on The Year 2020 – 2023. Source: Detachment 88 (2024)

As a result of this cooperation, Indonesia’s ability on combating terrorism has improved from previous year. Law enforcement actions (i.e. arrest) towards terrorism perpetrator have increased and terror incidents have diminished in the past 4 years. This can be look on the chart below.

The chart shows the law enforcement actions have the highest number of actions in the year 2021, with 370 arrests. Continuing that, Indonesia managed to have “Indonesia Zero Attack 2023” due to zero attack happened in the year 2023. As a conclusion, Indonesia law enforcement’s capabilities on combating terrorism has resulted in better condition for the nation’s security conditions.

CONCLUSION

The cooperation between Indonesia and Australia in combating terrorism have occurred for long time. Since the 2002 Bali Bombing, Indonesia and Australia have committed into various treaty, including the 2006 Lombok Treaty which is a foundation to extend and improving infrastructure on combating terrorism (Munabari, Hikam, & Ramadhani, 2021). Within eight years, both countries have collaborated in numerous programs which involves both countries’ law enforcement agency. Numerous programs such as summit on discussing counter terrorism, workshop, joint training between law enforcement agency personnel, working group, and others have been implemented in favor of soft approach. Deradicalization has also become crucial topic to be discussed in counterterrorism cooperation between two countries. Institutions such as BNPT (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme) have cooperated with Australian Government, including the AFP (Australian Federal Police) on developing and designing programs to make deradicalization programs to be successfully implemented. This valuable bilateral cooperation resulted in increasing qualities and capabilities on combating terrorism in time to come. This can be seen from the charts in Indonesian law enforcement actions on arresting terrorism perpetrators. The positive thing resulted from this cooperation for Indonesia is a “zero attack year” in 2023 due to no terrorist attack in mentioned year. Law enforcement actions have increased and terror attacks have decreasing in four-year range. As a good faith, counter terrorism cooperation between states must continue to achieve a greater good for both sides.

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