



PostScript

Bimonthly Political and Economic Analysis

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Indonesia, the Drug Producer

Decades ago, Indonesia had been a country where drugs (heroin, morphine) were known as delivery materials which were sent from the Golden Triangle (the boundaries of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand). It is a region where opium plants are cultivated by the local people for hundred of years as a very valuable commodity. By going through Indonesia, the final destination is the US of America, the biggest market for drugs. Not only from the Southeast Asia but America is the main target of drug producers of the Latin American countries, the producers of mostly cocaine. One kind of drug which is known in Indonesia since time immemorial is marijuana which is known and planted by Aceh people, until today, albeit clandestinely in the mountainous and remote areas after the plant has been categorized as one of the drugs and forbidden to be consumed.

Other drug, opium has been known in Indonesia since the Dutch colonial era, shown by the establishment of opium dens especially in big cities, Jakarta one of them. In the dens, the junkies shared a place to satisfy their deadly need. The dens are now forbidden, but many kinds of drugs are spread among people in many forms. The Aceh's marijuana has no longer been a spice in the cooking process but has become a lucrative commodity that is smuggled to

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other parts of Indonesia. The Aceh's marijuana has also been known as having the best quality in the world.

And, during the decades of time Indonesia is no longer a go between country but has become a very good market for drugs; a fact shows that Indonesia has a big population with a rising economy that makes its people are no longer mostly poor, but by the growing economy a lot of people are now rich and are able to buy the expensive things. More worrisome now, there is a 'new' drug in the form of plant named katinon whose leaves—known as khat—are used to be chewed, especially by people of Middle East origin, tens of them are staying in Puncak, Bogor, area for years until now. Some of them are said to have married local girls in the form of 'contract marriage'.

Now the police and BNN operators have confiscated the plants, pull out them assisted by some people who live there and burned them, while the local people are still waiting and seeing, since the khat leaves for years have been their source of income. They used to sell the leaves in plastic bags around Rp200,000 per bag to the Middle Easterners. Now the local people have to think what will the katinon plants have to be replaced with, to keep their economies running. The government has to consider of making replacement program for the sake of the local people's life.

Even now Indonesia has become a producer by itself, with the findings of ecstasy 'factories' is several places which have big capacities. On the other hand, there are many people, mostly from Africa, who are trying to smuggle heroin and the like. The very big profit from the trade has also attract Indonesian nationals to become small time couriers. So far there is no known drug cartel which are making Indonesia as the main target for their sale. Many smugglers have been caught and jailed. But the attraction of money has been too strong to avoid so that the BNN (the National Narcotics Agency) has to work extra hard to overcome the drug problem which has made millions of users trapped. The rising trend of drug users especially among affluent young people has made the BNN and the society more and more worried. As a matter of fact, at present the drug users in Indonesia has reached millions, most of them young people.

Drugs have become a big problem for Indonesia since it has a destruction effect if the government fails to overcome it. It is a difficult task since the pull of the narco-money is quite strong and needs efforts in gigantic size and cannot be done in just so so size. Like terrorism, drugs is a cross nation crime that needs a cross nation efforts too. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has tried to make a collaboration with Nigeria in fighting the drug problem since many caught heroin smugglers are suspected to be Nigerian citizens. A lot of collaborations are needed to make the efforts effective.

Moreover, firm action is needed to punish the dealers, smugglers and even users including capital punishment. It will not stop the drug trade but at least it will decrease the number of those who want to deal with narcotics. It is expected that the firm action in dealing with the drug problem will have a deterrent effect against it.

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ASEAN's Role in Corporate Social Responsibility in the Region

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Among the three pillars that will form the ASEAN Community in 2015, the Socio-Cultural pillar has often been regarded as “less sexy” when compared to the Political-Security or Economic pillars. It was therefore reassuring to read the new ASEAN Secretary-General, Le Luong Minh’s inaugural speech who said, “Our integration would be incomplete without the good work done and to be done in the social and cultural pillar.”

Certainly, the fifth “Roundtable Discussion Forum on Southeast Asian Foreign Economic Policies” found the topic of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – a topic listed in ASEAN’s Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint – anything but unsexy. With presentations from Maria R. Nindita Radyati (Center for Entrepreneurship, Change and Third Sector, Trisakti University) and Asep Mulyana (Komnas HAM), the Roundtable Discussion covered meaty issues of businesses & human rights, empowering communities, avoiding a dependency culture, and the delicate balance of safeguarding local communities but avoiding protectionist policies that could scare foreign investments.

One major recommendation that emerged from the Roundtable Discussion was the need for an integrated CSR mechanism. ASEAN itself is aware of this with its Blueprint calling for the development of a model public policy on

CSR or a legal instrument for reference by 2010. It is therefore unfortunate that three years on, CSR is still in Le Luong Minh's "to be done" category.

In Indonesia, Komnas HAM statistics show that 1,009 of the 5,422 human rights cases it handled in the period January-November 2012 were complaints against businesses in areas such as land & labour disputes, forced evictions and environmental damage. Only the police registered higher with 1,635 complaints. Such a trend, if applied across the ten ASEAN Member-States, is worrying given the region is quickly becoming a hotbed for foreign investment by multinational companies. While this interest is undoubtedly welcome, it also poses several dangers. Noting the attention her country was attracting from investors, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi stated, "We would like investors who are sensitive to such (human rights and environmental) issues."

However the Roundtable Discussion noted the difficulties in demanding foreign companies to apply CSR programs as a pre-investment requirement. It may be regarded as protectionism and an additional cost for businesses already taking a risk by investing in ASEAN. Another difficulty was identifying which companies are required to comply with CSR. Usually, only the extractive industries are thought to require CSR compliance but Indonesia's Law No. 40/2007 on Limited Companies commands all companies that have an impact on the environment to comply with CSR. Arguably, since all companies make some impact on the environment, it was suggested that every company require CSR compliance. A further difficulty was on the question of what constituted a CSR program. Too often in Indonesia, CSR typically consisted of nothing more than businesses throwing money at individual beneficiaries in local communities. Instead of empowering communities it simply created a dependency culture, reinforcing an inferiority complex among the rural poor, and turning companies into cash-cows.

Noting the aforementioned difficulties, it becomes clear why ASEAN needs to develop a model public policy on CSR or a legal instrument for reference. An ASEAN regional guideline or framework on CSR would help clear up not only the difficulties identified above but also other uncertainties surrounding CSR for the ten ASEAN Member-States. In particular, ASEAN should ensure

that the implementation of CSR across the region is coherent, sustainable and coordinated. One way would be to incorporate the Roundtable Discussion's call for a holistic CSR approach. A holistic CSR would go beyond simple compliance with the law and would involve changing the philosophies, policies, strategies and standard operating procedures of a company. A holistic CSR would ensure CSR no longer stood for Corporate Social Responsibility but Citizen Social Responsibility so that every individual employee plays a role; not just the business as whole.

More emphasis in ASEAN should also be placed on helping develop community enterprises rather than individual beneficiaries. This would not only increase a community's wellbeing, prosperity and cohesion but also bring immense benefits for businesses. To demonstrate, one aspect of developing community enterprise would be the promotion of community ownership that builds a community's dignity. This would go some way in addressing the dependency culture among the poor, thereby benefiting businesses which would no longer have to serve as cash-cows for the poor.

So, as ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh starts his term in office and deals with a myriad of challenges facing the region, he and ASEAN would be mindful not to ignore their own words: "Our integration would be incomplete without the good work done and to be done in the social and cultural pillar."

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Social Media Savvy on the Palestine–Israel War

Wenny Pahlemy, Researcher, The Habibie Center

On Wednesday (11/14/2012), Israel launched a vicious assault on Gaza. At least 20 targets were struck and a Hamas military commander, Ahmad Jabari, was killed. Mutual claims occurred between both sides. The Palestinian High Official strongly condemned the Israeli air strike that killed Ahmad Jabari. However, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attack was carried out in response to Hamas's rocket and mortar firings that had terrorized and threatened the safety of the people of Israel.

This article is going to talk about the efforts of both Israel and Palestine in gaining the world's opinion and how the internet provides an equal opportunity to every nation in shouting their voice.

Israel under Fire

Israel has been running the branding strategy over the years. During the latest conflict, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) initiated a social media campaign to defend its actions. The official IDF Spokesperson's¹ Twitter account under the hashtag #IsraelUnderFire posted a video showing the rockets fired from Gaza to Israel along with pictures of the injured Israeli children. IDF also posted a YouTube video of the strike on the Hamas commander.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) use social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, and Youtube to make a campaign related to the latest conflict. Those

social media became a new medium to show the images of soldiers that were deployed in the war.

Israel is serious in using social media as a part of the weapon and the war. In 2012 alone, the Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister has invested US\$15 million on the social media campaign in order to polish its image.²

Palestine's Campaign on Twitter

Although considered one step behind in PR and media savvy due to scarce electricity and little internet infrastructure, Palestine is also running the public relations strategy to influence the global public opinion regarding the struggle of the Palestinians for their independence. In the last November conflict, Hamas also used the media to obtain sympathy and also fire the struggle of the people. Al-Aqso TV, a Hamas-based TV station is often featuring the images of violence from Israeli military attack. Using the media to inflame people's struggle is quite successful. Evidently, the Israeli army had taken over a program on Al-Aqso TV in Gaza. The Israeli army also took over Hamas's radio after Israeli fighter jets bombed two media buildings in Gaza.³

Aside from the traditional media like TV and radio, Al-Qossam, Hamas's military group, is also using the internet technology. In the Twitter account (*@AlqassamBrigade*)⁴, they showed their attacks to Israeli military target and also the death of Palestinian children by using hashtag #terror.

The entire world are used to witnessing that Israel's missiles were attacking Palestine and made the Palestinian women and children suffered. However, on the recent conflict, under the #IsraelUnderFire tag, the Israeli Defense Forces is willing to show the world that Israel is now the victim. Israeli women and children are also injured even worse.

Palestine was labeled as the terrorist following the suicide bombs killing the Israeli. It's quite difficult for Palestine to wipe the image. But, then, Hamas uses the hashtag #terror during the conflict. The hashtag is willing to say that Israel is now the real terrorist.

We see that both sides are competing in developing public opinion in a new fighting area, the social media. The whole world is watching and getting the

information on what's happening from the internet. At the latest conflict Israel was considered to have lost in social media war.

Some of the explanations are: Internet penetration rates continue to grow in the whole world, especially in the Arab World. The severe Arab-Israeli conflict has developed a group of people who are sympathetic and ultimately contribute to the war using their fingers. Israel could have blockaded and bombarded the traditional media, however, Palestinian journalists then use social media in updating news and conditions of the Palestinian population in Gaza.

Indonesian's Response to the Conflict

In Jakarta, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) called for the violence between Israel and Palestine to stop immediately. Yudhoyono also called on the UN Security Council to take decisive actions to stop the conflict. The president expressed the opinion that the position of Indonesia on the problem is very clear, that is, to support the independence of the Palestinian people to the concept of the two-state solution.⁵ The Indonesian House of Representatives also supported Palestine by paying a visit to Gaza. Their mission is to encourage the peace pact, especially in the Gaza Strip. There was no protest from the people that usually is critical when the House members are going abroad.

In any conflict, media in Indonesia reported the event along with the victim numbers and the military forces from both sides. But the nuance can be felt. *Republika*, representing Muslim readers, called Israel terrorist whilst mentioning Hamas warrior or the Islamic fighting movement of Palestine. The daily writes in detail the Palestinian children victims of the assault of the F-16s, the suffering population from missile assault, and the wounded that have to be taken to the hospital.

Tempo Magazine once labeled Hamas as Palestinian armed group who is in control over Gaza Strip. Interchangeably, the *Weekly* used the words Israel and the Jewish State. *Kompas Daily*, the national newspaper with the largest circulation, is using the word "militant Palestinian" referring to Hamas. The daily mostly called the current war as the Hamas-Israel one. Hamas is the

ruling authority in Gaza since 2007, but Gaza is not always Hamas. Gaza has over 1.5 million Palestinians living in it.

Indonesians started to pay attention to Twitter in 2010, 4 years after the service is available. According to SemioCast, the social media research institute based in Paris, Indonesia has 29.4 million Twitter accounts, making Indonesia the 5th largest in terms of twitter accounts after the USA, Brazil, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Surprisingly, Jakarta is the most active Twitter city within all cities ranked by the number of posted tweets.⁶

During the recent conflict, Palestinian topics became the trending ones on Twitter in Indonesia. At least, there are four hashtags, namely #GodPleaseSaveGAZA, #IndonesiaPrayForGaza, #Gaza, and #Palestine that appeared on November 18, 2012. This is showing the sympathy of Indonesian people to Palestine.

Closing

It is the real war. Both sides suffered from the war. The conflict must not be reduced as a matter of a brand war, but that of life and death. However, the world's opinion must be gained and in the digital era, it matters a lot. The existence of internet opened the opportunity to every nation to amplify and distribute the trickle of information and gain the world's public sympathy. In digital era, winning in the battlefield should be followed by that in cyber world.

One thing should be noted in the social media era is that nobody can guarantee the truth of the circulated information. It could be a hoax and or propaganda. We have to respond to the technology wisely.

Box:**Palestine Media Landscape**

Population	4,148,000 (2008 est.)
Country Area	West Bank: 2,178 sq mi (5,641 sq km); total area: West Bank: 2,263 sq mi (5,860 sq km); Gaza Strip: 139 sq mi (360 sq km)
Language	Arabic, Hebrew, English
Internet users	355,500 (includes West Bank) (2007)
Country Comparison to the world	108
Telephones - main lines in use	Gaza Strip 350,400 (includes West Bank) (2007)
Country comparison to the world	109
Telephones - mobiles	Gaza Strip 1.026 million (includes West Bank) (2007)
Country comparison to the world	134
Radio broadcast stations	Gaza Strip: AM 0, FM 0, shortwave 0; West Bank: AM 1, FM 0, short-wave 0 (2000). Radios: Gaza Strip: n.a.; West Bank: n.a.; note: most Palestinian households have radios (1999)
Television broadcast stations	Gaza Strip: 2 (operated by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation) (1997); West Bank: n.a. Televisions: Gaza Strip: n.a.; West Bank: n.a.; note: most Palestinian households have televisions (1999). Internet Service Providers (ISPs): Gaza Strip: 3; West
Online Media	Arabic Media Internet Network; Donia Alwatan; From Gaza, with Love; One Voice; Palestine News Network (PNN); Paltoday; Samanews; Um-kahlil

Source: http://www.ejc.net/media_landscape/article/palestine/

Israel Media Landscape

Population	7,411,000 (2009 est.)
Country Area	20, 770 / 22, 072 km2 (151st) 8, 019 / 8, 522 sq mi
Language	Hebrew (official), Arabic, English
Internet users	2 million (2007)
Country Comparison to the world	61
Telephones - main lines in use	3.005 million (2006)
Country comparison to the world	49
Telephones - mobiles	8.902 million (2007)
Country comparison to the world	58
Calling Code Radio broadcast stations	AM 23, FM 15, shortwave 2 (1998)
Television broadcast stations	17 (plus 36 repeaters) (1995)

Source: http://www.ejc.net/media_landscape/article/israel/

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End Notes:

- 1 According to its Bio, it started tweeting in January 3, 2009
- 2 <http://news.detik.com/read/2012/11/17/021239/2093051/1148/saat-sosial-media-menjadi-senjata-perang-palestina-israel?9922022>
- 3 <http://www.republika.co.id/berita/internasional/palestina-israel/12/11/19/mdqogl-israel-ambil-alih-tv-al-aqsa-milik-hamas>
- 4 According to its Bio, the account was made on November 21, 2009
- 5 <http://batam.tribunnews.com/2012/11/18/sby-minta-israel-hentikan-serangan-ke-palestina>
- 6 http://semioast.com/publications/2012_07_30_Twitter_reaches_half_a_billion_accounts_140m_in_the_US
- 7 <http://www.dakwatuna.com/2012/11/24344/godpleasesavegaza-indonesiaprayerforgaza-gaza-dan-palestine-jadi-trending-topic-twitter/#ixzz2HYY0m3mP>

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Society Resilience the First, Conflict Prevention the Following

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On January 22, 2013 a riot occurred in Sumbawa Besar, the capital of the Sumbawa regency, West Nusa Tenggara. The violence resulted in at least 13 homes and two shop houses, including traditional markets and hotels, damaged and ravaged by citizens. Not to mention more than 2000 people were displaced. This event was triggered by a motorcycle accident, driven by a policeman, Brigadier I Gede Eka Swarjana, and killed his girlfriend, Arniati on the Saturday night of the 19th of January 2013 (www.tribunnews.com).

According to the victim's family, Arniati was abused; however the police insisted the victim died because of the accident. Information circulating in the community through Short Message Service (SMS) stated that the Sumbawa girl was raped by the police officer before she died. Exactly on the celebration of the 54th Sumbawa regency's anniversary, riots took place. The mob carried out a long march to the Sumbawa police station and demanded to reveal Arniati's death. People started to express their emotions which, unfortunately, lead to victimizing a lot of innocent people. (www.kompas.com).

In the South Lampung regency, on the 28-29 of October 2012, clashes between the Balinuraga villagers, Way Panji District and the Agom

villagers, Kalianda District had sparked. At least three people were killed; six wounded and 342 houses were destroyed and burned. As many as 820 families were homeless and displaced (www.merdeka.com).

The clash between the Balinese and Lampung residents ignited from a motorcycle accident of two Lampung girls (Agom village), who were rescued by the Balinuraga residents (Balinese people). There were rumors saying the two girls in the accident were harassed by the villager of Balinuraga. A mob from Agom village then moved to the Balinuraga village (www.suarapembaruan.com).

On the 10th of September 2011, a Muslim motorcycle taxi driver named Darfin Saimin was killed. Police assured his family that Darfin was killed in an accident. Not long after, a text message, saying Darfin was tortured and murdered by Christian groups, began to circulate. The conflict broke out shortly after Darfin's funeral, which resulted in three people dying and dozens injured. More than 100 houses belonging to the Muslims and the Christians were burnt down (International Crisis Group, 2011).

Tensions also have occurred in Central Maluku in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, tension happened after a text message spread saying that the traders in Jalan Sudirman would be forced to move due to the road widening. In late November 2010 an anonymous SMS was sent to the whole of Ambon, stating that Islamic villages were attacked. Not long after, they proved that the rumor was a hoax. (Barron, Azca, Susdinarjanti, 2012).

Those events are just a few of the conflicts that have occurred in Indonesia after the 1998 Reformation. According to the National Violence Monitoring System (NVMS) and The Habibie Center, in the period of January-April 2012 there were 2408 incidents of violence. Meanwhile, from May to August 2012 there were 2344 incidents of violence.

President's Instruction on Security Troubleshooting

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued the President's Instruction No.2 Year 2013 on Domestic Security Troubleshooting on January, 28 2013. On his speech, the President said that the police and army forces along with local government have an important role in maintaining security in the region. The President also emphasized to handle communal

conflict and incident of violence decisively throughout the country.

Reviewing from the name itself along with the President's explanation, it could be interpreted that the state and security will be working after the conflict occurs or in the middle of the conflict. It means again, that local government and security apparatus is in a position to wait for a conflict to break out. Thus, the Instruction will serve or run when the riots occur. The President issued 8 points of instructions that contains some steps to stop and recharge the conflict, instructing the use of national and regional budgets in handling conflict, and instructed the related parties to develop a plan of action for handling disturbances in the country.

Ideally, the President also emphasized and ordered all heads of regional and security forces to pro-actively prevent conflict than to handle it later on. Indeed, the second point, number four, of the Instruction mentioned the prevention of conflict, but only briefly. Whereas conflict prevention is very important since all the conflicts in the country don't just happen. There are always preceding events which could be the basis of consideration of the government and the authorities to take preventive action.

The government is supposed to work together in recording the dynamics that occur in an area. Those dynamics will bring out some indicators of potential security threats. Government and security officials also engage in dialogue with the community to reduce tension so that the conflict does not erupt. This means that we need a capable local security and government officials to make such efforts.

Need for Resilient Society

The improvement of the ability and performance of government and security forces is important in one side. On the other side, the strengthening of the community is absolutely necessary. Those cases illustrated in the article showed that people seem so vulnerable to mobilize through media, such as SMS messages.

Communal conflict that occurred after the New Order in Indonesia can't be detached from the economic and political dynamics in one region. Decentralization/regional autonomy allows the region to have access to resources and finance in the region. This financial opportunity emerged political motivation of local elites or patron who could read the situation. Those local elites need the support from community to get power legitimacy

by building an identity based on ethnicity and religion in the community.

These two identities are effectively capable in eliciting mass solidarity. Elites, for example, are wearing ethnic and religious symbols when appearing in public. This identity building would not be a problem as long as it didn't turn into a campaign that caused a rejection/hatred towards other communities. Nevertheless, what came out is a jargon like "immigrants" VS "indigenous", or certain provocative appellation indicating different religion, or false/exaggerating stereotypes. This situation raised tensions among society in the region.

What would happen next? The society has got a "new" identity and certain perception towards other groups. They won't be automatically mobilized when there were no of social changes that proceed, for instance, changes in land ownership, infrastructure development which was considered favorable for the other group, or the important position in the government which were occupied by other ethnicity or religion. Those social changes woke community up to be aware of the threats and opportunities they are facing.

This kind of society would be vulnerable and reactive to the issues. At the meantime, the use of the medium of communication is increasingly widespread. Nowadays, we can't live without media, for example mobile phones. It is the first and foremost medium used to disseminate information to the people in the area and or regions in conflict. By the end of 2011, the number of cellular subscribers in Indonesia reaches more than 250 million (www.yahoo.co.id). This number is almost equal to the population of the country. This is that mobile phones are accessible to people in, both villages and cities. Information through mobile phones is rapid, relatively cheap and more personal.

Communities who use mobile phones, especially those in areas affected by conflict, need to be equipped with the ability to respond to the media message. That is not easily to believe in the anonymous information but seek other opinions and try to find the true facts. If the information/news come from someone they know, they also need to find out the background and interests of the sender towards a reality. Some of the skills usually called the media literacy: critical thinking skills of media content.

In 2010, The Habibie Center held the Media Literacy Program for Tolerance in three areas, namely Depok, West Java, Palu (Central Sulawesi), and the city of Ambon, Maluku for high school students. It is hoped that in the future the program could reach a wider public. In Ambon, a number of people are calling themselves Provocateur Peace comprising both religions activist. When conflicts occurred in September 2011, they countered the false circulating SMS with a photo and sent it back as evidence that the church or mosque is in a fine condition. They are also interconnecting via phone, checking out the circulating story and sending information via Facebook and twitter (ICG, 2011).

Conflict prevention efforts should also be a concern for government and the security forces as well as the public, especially for areas having a history of previous conflicts. Conflict prevention requires resilient societies of the uncertain situation such as the amount of information circulating through the media. The resilient society would not be effectively or easily provoked so that conflicts can be prevented.

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Preventing Provocation, Avoiding Violence

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This country does not seem to get enough of being marred with the constant news of unabated violence. Deprivation of property rights, crime, and even personal offense may end up in mass rallies that lead to riots, many anarchic ones. Many opt for shortcuts to solve their problems by ignoring existing laws. The crisis of public trust in law enforcers and their mechanisms is the reason why many people choose their own ways in resolving the disputes they are involved in.

The data from the National Monitoring System (Sistem Nasional Pemantauan Kekerasan/SNPK) which was accessed on February 13th 2013, listed 690 vigilante incidents from January to August of 2012, leading to 63 persons died, 849 injured, and 88 buildings damaged in nine provinces. The data show an increase of 20% compared to 2011 situation where vigilante incidents occurred 576 times and caused 47 persons died, 683 injured, and 83 buildings damaged. The data also show a rise in fatal incidents by as much as 34% and the incidents leading to injuries by as much as 24%.

The figures above imply the concern over the condition of the people who choose to act on their own rather than to hand over the disputes to the prevailing legal mechanisms. This is even before mentioning a number of other incidents of violence committed by the security forces themselves in addition to their repressive handling of violent incidents that disregard human rights. For

example, there were incidents of assault committed by the security apparatus against civilians in June of 2012 in Wamena, Papua and Teluk Ambon, Maluku. These incidents show that there is a problem in law enforcement. It also shows that the security apparatus, who are supposed to promote peaceful settlement based on the law, are instead committing violence outside of the law.

Instant Policy

Amidst the massive incidents of violence coupled with the people's lack of trust towards the law enforcement process, the emergence of Presidential Instruction (Inpres) No. 2/2013 on Handling Disturbances to Domestic Security adds new problems. These were caused by the government who were perceived to have taken shortcuts in settling violent conflicts that broke out within society. Many have argued that the Presidential Instruction employs a security approach which tends to be repressive in its practical implementation. Moreover, the agreement for the Indonesian Armed Forces to provide assistance to the National Police has been viewed by many as a setback for security reforms. In essence, the existence of the Presidential Instruction does not offer a solution that touches on problems at the root of violent conflicts.

It should be realized by all sides that there are no instant settlements/resolutions to overcome social conflicts. This means that a security approach is never enough to solve the problems at the root of violent conflicts. Yet, the security approach is nevertheless very important and needed when violent conflicts break out in society.

The record of violent conflicts which have occurred all this time always repeats themselves with the same problems that indicate the slow response of the security apparatuses, thus causing the conflict to sustain and even spread to other uninvolved societal groups. The incident of Sumbawa a few weeks ago could be a lesson for us on how the small problems can end up causing a very big human cost.

The incident of Sumbawa brought the violent news that began with the death of a female university student due to an accident. However, her family doubted the cause of her death and suspected she had been assaulted and raped by her boyfriend who was a police officer and an ethnic Balinese. The incident then

triggered mass action on the streets with demands of justice for the victim and ended with the destruction of ethnic-owned properties, particularly those by the ethnic minorities in Sumbawa. In total, there were listed 70 building units damaged and an estimated loss of Rp15 billion as a result of the spreading violent incident.

This violent incident seemed like reopening the dark past when a similar conflict happened in Sumbawa in 2003. Then, a riot was caused by the perception of police persecution. Many people regretted the repetition of violent conflict which was caused by the people's disappointment in the performance of the police officers of Sumbawa.

Not only in Sumbawa, but also in other regions, it can be seen that violence repeats itself in different dimensions. Such as the issue of land dispute in Maluku, ethnicity wars in Papua, and moreover fights between students in some regions which are still not over yet. These series of incidents show that there are problems which mean settlement/resolutions cannot yet reach the agreement between the groups involved. The clashes within the society which continue without the certainty of law enforcement certainly create boredom and frustration within the society itself. As a shortcut, society reacts in their own way to uphold the justice.

Inpres No.2/2013 is Still Needed

However, we should give appreciation to the government in relation to Inpres No. 2/2013. By ensuring clearly and firmly the path of coordination and determining who is responsible for what, this implementing regulation can be an effort to stop the violence where conflict has occurred. The existence of this Inpres is also seen as an effort to improve the performance of the security apparatus that have been regarded as ignorant and slow to respond to violent incidents. When violent conflicts break out in the society, the first effective step to settle the conflict is to stop the violence. Then, limits should be built so that conflicts do not spread and injure other uninvolved and innocent groups in the society. Obviously, these efforts must be undertaken with various approaches so the violent conflict could be settled from its root causes.

It is important to understand that the high number of violent actions within

society lately is not immediately a government failure in managing differences between groups in the society. History records from the past prove that a society containing different religion denomination or ethnicities can co-exist peacefully. Our founding fathers had shown such a peaceful coexistence. It also cannot be denied that history also shows that differences can end in violence. As a great nation, our leaders and society itself must be able to take the lessons from past incidents: that there is definitely the potential for conflict within societies and the ability of communities to manage differences so as to create a real peace.

Like it or not, the government has outlined the rules to make a secure and peaceful society – one of them being Inpres No.2/2003. But in practice, the people are easily provoked by the issues where the sources are not obvious and are likely to be misled. Therefore, the position of societal figures who are closest to the society in their daily lives have a dominant role in preventing the spread of misleading issues or information when the potential for conflict first begins to emerge. On the other hand, the society should be required to critically confirm any kind of information which could trigger the dispute so as to prevent conflict.

Hence, approaches to violent conflict settlement in society are not only reliant on the government's laws and rules. Moral education, tolerance, and the ability to manage differences in the form of continuous education in every formal or informal meeting of society become extremely important for increasingly segregated communities. To cut the chain of conflict recurrence in society, improvements within society itself are need and must be initiated by all elements of society, including society/ethnic figures at the grass-root level and also activists from social movements such as Non-Governmental Organizations which always voice the aspirations of society. These efforts should be conducted so that societies are not easily provoked by misleading information so the conflict can be avoided.

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