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Terrorism: Its Impact and Countermeasures

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Abstract

Terrorism emerges due to the escalating presence of intense radical ideologies. While terrorism was once confined to specific physical locations and territories, the evolution of internet technology has expanded its reach significantly. This research employs a library-based methodology to examine and address a particular research issue. The findings of this study indicate that terrorist bombings have a substantial impact on air quality, leading to the degradation of human health and resulting in the death of numerous animals and livestock. Furthermore, these actions can also have a detrimental effect on the economy, as investors become apprehensive about investing and consumer purchasing power diminishes. The economy can experience a downturn due to a decrease in both foreign and domestic tourism, as interest in traveling wanes. Terror attacks that involve disrupting vital resources such as water and electricity supplies, as well as contaminating water sources with hazardous substances, pose a significant threat to human health and well-being. Every nation should undertake efforts to counter terrorism. In addition to establishing domestic laws, it is imperative for all countries worldwide to formulate their own constitutions to collectively denounce terrorism. A global commitment against terrorism must be fostered, with all nations working together to oppose this threat.

Keywords: terrorism, radical ideologies, impact and countermeasures.

Introduction

The emergence of terrorism is attributed to the growing strength of radicalism, an ideology that employs force and violence to attain its objectives. Terrorism isn't confined to terrestrial activities alone; it extends to maritime domains as well. Maritime terrorism carries distinct attributes (Zelenkov et al., 2022). Moreover, terrorism has significant ramifications for the level of globalization in the Middle East and North Africa region (Lutz & Lutz, 2015).

Terrorism used to be constrained by physical boundaries and specific geographical regions. However, the advancement of internet technology has expanded the scope of terrorism considerably. The internet has introduced a novel virtual realm where terrorist groups and their sympathizers can engage in activities that were previously limited to the tangible world (Sinai, 2012). Through the internet, terrorists gain access to an extended network, allowing them to recruit adherents beyond national borders, secure funding, and exercise control over their operations using the digital domain.

Terrorism stands as a universally condemned crime, prompting all nations to collectively combat the actions of specific groups engaging in such acts. These acts often masquerade under the guise of religion or radical ideologies. These terrorist activities, including bombings targeting

places of worship and public spaces, lead to significant material and intangible losses. The intangible losses encompass heightened public apprehension, which, in turn, deters people from venturing outdoors and consequently exerts pressure on the economy. The adverse effects of terrorism on the Indonesian economy are apparent. They encompass the decline in the Jakarta Composite Index (JCI), the devaluation of the national currency (rupiah), the negative impact on economic growth through the tourism sector, reduced Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a shift in resource allocation, and a contraction in investment capital (Bahgat & Medina, 2013; Nugraha et al., 2019; Widajatun et al., 2019; Widajatun & Ichsani, 2019).

The severe consequences of terrorism underscore the crucial need for proactive measures to prevent its occurrence. Addressing terrorism requires a joint effort from all nations, both on an individual and collective level, recognizing the global network that terrorism operates within. Therefore, the objective of this research is to explore effective strategies for countering terrorism.

Previous research studies

Research on terrorism and how to handle it has been carried out by several researchers. The conclusions of their research include that terrorism has a detrimental impact on environmental sustainability (Bahgat & Medina, 2013). The ramifications of terrorism extend to the increased mortality of livestock (Fadare et al., 2022). Tourist influx is significantly disrupted by terrorist attacks (Guo & An, 2022). Investor confidence experiences a decline due to terrorism (Jiménez & Lupton, 2021). Regions affected by conflict witness decreased rates of economic growth. Terrorist incidents also shape opinions on matters such as immigration and political stance (Trihartono & Viartasiwi, 2015). The impacts of terror attacks are notable, though their negative effects are often confined to specific geographical areas (Peri et al., 2023). Additionally, the variable most adept at predicting cognitive radicalization is revealed to be attitudes toward democracy (Bahgat & Medina, 2013). Furthermore, a model has been developed to identify potentially suspicious financial transactions linked to money laundering and terrorism (Martínez et al., 2022; Zuo, 2013).

Method

The research employs a literature review methodology, which functions as a roadmap for investigating a specific research issue (research review) (Neuman, 2014). Within this literature review, international and domestic journals, along with other pertinent resources, are utilized. Drawing upon these sources, the researcher deliberates on and draws conclusions regarding the repercussions of terrorism as well as effective strategies for addressing it.

The Impact of Terrorism

Terrorist attacks have various consequences, including their environmental effects, particularly in the case of bomb attacks. One such consequence is the environmental impact of bomb explosions, which leads to an uptick in carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. Research findings have consistently shown that terrorism has an adverse effect on environmental sustainability due

to the increased levels of CO2 emissions it generates. In contrast, factors like trade openness and urbanization have a positive influence on environmental sustainability as they are associated with reduced CO2 emissions (Tahir et al., 2022). This rise in CO2 emissions also has devastating repercussions, including livestock fatalities, resulting in significant economic losses. This aligns with research findings indicating that terrorism leads to a higher mortality rate among livestock (Fadare et al., 2022).

Terrorist bomb attacks also diminish the appeal for investors to allocate their resources. The destruction of buildings caused by these bombings poses a significant deterrent to potential investors. Moreover, the fear resulting from these attacks leads to reduced interest in visiting areas that have been targeted by bombs. Consequently, shopping centers, entertainment venues, and other establishments in proximity to the bomb site witness a decline in foot traffic, leading to decreased earnings for business owners. As a result, prospective investors are dissuaded from committing their capital, fearing both the safety of the business location and the potential for substantial financial losses. This aligns with research findings indicating that terrorism erodes investor confidence (Jiménez & Lupton, 2021). Furthermore, terrorist bomb attacks contribute to a decline in public trust. The prevailing pessimistic attitudes stem from the fear and unease instilled in the public regarding activities in areas, particularly those subjected to bombings. Despite low casualty rates, terrorist attacks have a profound impact on people's beliefs and confidence (Guo & An, 2022).

The reduced economic activity in areas affected by previous bombings, along with their immediate vicinity, leads to a decrease in the income of the local population. This decline in income subsequently results in a reduction in people's purchasing power, ultimately leading to sluggish economic growth. These findings align with research indicating that communities affected by conflicts experience lower levels of economic development (Trihartono & Viartasiwi, 2015). Additionally, research underscores the significant negative impact of terrorist attacks, albeit with spatial limitations (Trihartono & Viartasiwi, 2015).

Terrorist bomb attacks in tourist destinations have a detrimental impact on both local and international tourists' willingness to visit these places. This is primarily due to the apprehension among potential tourists that similar attacks may occur in the same area or its vicinity. Tourists who have experienced traumatic events like bombings at tourist sites are often reluctant to revisit these attractions, and they tend to share their negative experiences with family and acquaintances. In today's digital age, such stories on social media platforms can reach a wider audience, further diminishing the appeal of tourist spots that have been targeted by terrorism. This corresponds with research findings indicating a significant decline in tourist arrivals as a result of terrorist attacks (Guo & An, 2022). Furthermore, decreased interest from foreign tourists can have repercussions on immigration activities, aligning with the assertion that terror attacks influence immigration attitudes (Peri et al., 2023).

In addition to bomb attacks, acts of terrorism also involve exerting pressure and causing harm to both adversaries and innocent civilians through various means. These actions can result in the disruption or complete cessation of essential power supplies such as water and electricity. Furthermore, they may lead to the contamination of water sources with substances that can cause

diseases (Kohler et al., 2019). The absence of reliable access to water and electricity has a profoundly adverse impact on daily life, particularly because water is indispensable for all living beings, and human survival is impossible without it.

Countermeasures of Terorism

Concerning counterterrorism efforts, the primary responsibility of the state is to establish a sense of security and well-being for its citizens, and it is not justified to employ any form of violence. Amidst the multifaceted challenges posed by terrorism, there is an opportunity to address religious education as a means to encourage introspection, promote social awareness, and kindle a spirit of pursuing truth and justice through civil and peaceful means. Article 29 of the 1945 Constitution underscores the right of all Indonesian citizens to practice their religion. Security also assumes great significance in fulfilling the state's internal obligations to ensure the welfare of its citizens, as citizens contribute through tax payments

One of the acts of terrorism that occurred in Indonesia was the Bali bombing. Subsequently, in response to the Bali bombing, the Indonesian government introduced Regulation Government Replacement Constitution Number 1 of 2002, focusing on the eradication of criminal terrorism. This effort was further supported by additional regulations aimed at combating terrorism, including Law No. 8 of 2010, which addresses the prevention and eradication of criminal money laundering. This law serves as a comprehensive framework and policy tool, encompassing criminal penalties and financial sanctions. Additionally, Constitution Number 9 of 2013 was established to address the prevention and eradication of criminal funding for terrorism. This constitution enables prevention and eradication efforts to involve Financial Services Providers, law enforcement agencies, and international collaboration to detect suspicious fund flows associated with terrorist activities. Consequently, the scope of legal actions extends beyond the perpetrators of terrorism to encompass a broader range of individuals and entities. As a result of international agreements, Indonesia ratified the Convention International Eradication Funding Terrorism, 1999, through Constitution Number 6 of 2006, solidifying its commitment to international efforts in combating the financing of terrorism. This collaboration also underscores the potential for effective cooperation among nations in addressing funding-related issues and enhancing security measures (Shahid, 2014).

In accordance with this, Law No. 3 of 2011 concerning Fund Transfers has been enacted to regulate business activities, requiring Fund Transfer Operators (PTDs) to obtain authorization from Bank Indonesia. To safeguard the interests of the community, any PTD conducting fund transfer operations without proper authorization is subject to criminal penalties (considered illegal PTD). In essence, Payment Service Users (PSUs) are considered PTDs because they engage in fund transfer activities, thus requiring formal authorization. In the context of preventing criminal funding for terrorism, these efforts involve: a). Implementing principles to identify Users of Financial Services, reporting and monitoring the compliance of Users of Financial Services. b). Overseeing remittance activities conducted through transfer systems or other remittance methods. c). Supervising the collection and receipt of donations. Payment

Service Users are obligated to report any suspicious financial transactions related to terrorism financing to the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center. This includes transactions suspected of being linked to funds associated with or intended for criminal terrorism activities, as well as transactions involving individuals or entities listed by the government or international organizations as terrorists or terrorist organizations. Additionally, there is an ongoing effort to develop a model capable of detecting suspicious transactions related to both money laundering and terrorism financing (Zuo, 2013).

To address the ongoing challenge of terrorism, member countries of the ASEAN have undertaken various efforts, supported by formal counterterrorism policies. At the regional level, the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism was established in 2007, demonstrating the commitment of ASEAN member states to combat terrorism. However, ASEAN member country delegations have agreed to include provisions for the rehabilitation of terrorism perpetrators seeking reintegration into society (Article XI) and "Fair Treatment" measures in Article VIII. The inclusion of a rehabilitation program for terrorism perpetrators and provisions related to fair treatment signals that ASEAN member states do not employ a disengagement approach towards terrorists, as seen in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Conversely, ASEAN member states opt for a cooperative approach, including Indonesian-style deradicalization efforts (Martínez et al., 2022). Furthermore, it has been found that attitudes toward democracy are a crucial variable in predicting cognitive radicalization. At the global level, the United Nations plays an active role, particularly through changes in the foundation of law enforcement strategies, which are highly significant. Referring to a UN panel report, the concept of "Collective Security Responsibility" (CSR) from all UN member states in the fight against terrorism is essential. Additionally, the impact of the pandemic has led to a decrease in international support for terrorism (Singam & Ong, 2021).

In addition to enacting laws, combating terrorism can also be achieved by raising awareness among the community about the significance of harmony and peace. When confronting the challenges posed by the growing global diversity of religions, it becomes crucial to foster and advocate a fresh perspective on religious harmony. This approach entails acknowledging and appreciating the diversity and distinctions among religions worldwide. Consequently, a sense of mutual respect and tolerance can develop among individuals of different religious backgrounds (Zuo, 2013). One practical example of this approach involves extending support and authorization to religious preachers who promote love and peace while simultaneously prohibiting those who advocate violence.

It is essential to educate the younger generation about the dangers of terrorism to instill in them the awareness and understanding of the significance of mutual respect and cooperation among individuals. This education should be integrated into the curriculum, beginning at the elementary level and extending through higher education, to cultivate a strong sense of humanity in the younger generation. In addition to formal educational institutions, non-formal schools like pesantren and other religious-based non-formal schools play a significant role in teaching the values of mutual respect among religious followers, fostering a deep sense of love and peace within religious communities.

Conclusion

Terrorist bomb attacks have a significant impact on air quality, potentially leading to deteriorating human health and the death of numerous animals, including livestock. Furthermore, these attacks can have detrimental effects on the economy as they instill fear among investors and reduce consumer spending. A decline in the economy can also be attributed to reduced interest from both international and domestic travelers due to safety concerns. Moreover, acts of terrorism, such as the disruption of power supplies like water and electricity, and the contamination of water sources with harmful substances, pose severe threats to human life and well-being.

Every country has a responsibility to combat terrorism. This can be accomplished through the enactment of legislation that can disrupt terrorism financing and impose severe penalties to create a deterrent effect. Additionally, each country should establish its own constitution to address this issue, and on a global scale, all nations must come together in a collective commitment to counter terrorism. Efforts to counter terrorism also involve fostering attitudes of mutual respect and a love for peace among individuals. This can be achieved through educational initiatives, including lectures by prominent public figures or religious leaders. Teaching mutual respect and promoting a love for peace should commence at an early age and be incorporated into both formal and non-formal education environments.

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