

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

From the study of this topic which has explored and explained with more fundamental ways to identify the terrorists in Southeast Asia. The study has provided clearer image on the ASEAN cooperation on counterterrorism after the 9/11 incident in 2001. Another major event that conveyed the state members to thoroughly realize that it happened in their own soil was the Bali incident in 2003. These are main occasions that why cooperation on counterterrorism in Southeast Asia has really becoming a main issue. As prior 9/11 and Bali incident, terrorism topic would go under the transnational crime concern but later on elevate its significant to a mainframe point of concern.

Later on, this research also provided impacts from terrorism which have made major security threat to the region as a whole. By illustrate key terrorist groups in each country and provided how they bond with worldwide terrorist group like Al-Qaeda. Moreover, it also elaborates on how ASEAN response and lift up those concerns with cooperation framework both within internal and further broaden with external support and assistance. Vividly, the cooperation at first stage has seen as the bilateral cooperation with major state like the United States. At the outset, the main reason of conducting bilateral cooperation between some ASEAN members and the US was due to economical support and assistance despite the cooperation on counterterrorism came along closely. However, rock-solid militarized strategies of the US on war on terror seem to be unsuitable to the situation in Southeast Asia as the fact of a divergence of internal differences among ASEAN members. In addition, governments overlook academic observations and researches that have gathered key data and figures and essential in-dept details. Merged with lack of cooperation or refuse to cooperate from local people which have ground details and more up-to-date information. In this case it resulted in difficulties of rapid counter attack or coming up with accurate strategy.

Importantly, the research also discovers the main obstacles of the ineffective cooperation firstly, due to the blaming game among Southeast Asian neighboring countries. By pointing to each other as a hub of terrorist networks or even transit places. As response to others' indictment they would oppose and defense to use the Southeast Asian nations' organization fundamental principal of non-interference and non-intervention that other members could not interfere its internal affairs. It is not a solid answer to the hypothesis of this research that non-intervention and non-interference are the pure answer of the main obstacles of ineffective cooperation of ASEAN cooperation on counterterrorism. As most of the data and information have concluded to the point that it has been use most of the time for political argument. Like Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra blamed Malaysia as a hub for recruiting and training terrorists. While, Malaysia pointing Indonesia as a paradise place for terrorists. This blaming game must be stop; a political gain on one side is a severe pain for others. If this kind of political exploitation still going on the true commitment to deal with counterterrorism in Southeast Asia will go to nowhere.

But more significantly is on the second critical obstacle, through lack of experts, outdated tools and equipments in most of member states also generate the far behind advanced and brisk terrorist movements. There are a few countries that could strongly counterterrorism at right away like Singapore and Malaysia which have much more integrated system with all kinds of advanced technology, know-how and well-trained officials. While others still trapped in weak immigration control, corrupted officials, loosen border patrol and obsolete equipments.

The second decisive obstacle of inappropriate counterterrorism-system of ASEAN member states provide much more tangible answers to the research question of whether it is a success or failure. It could be on the failure side due to the fact that terrorist groups still activate and exist in the region. Terrorist groups change their strategy and target all the time, while government officials are far behind them. However, it is also could be a success too. As the 9/11 and Bali incident occurred ASEAN members eagerly gather to launch ASEAN Joint Declaration on Counter International Terrorism. More proper steps and progression to deal with international

terrorism were carried out. Another major change should be more channels to provide and share valuable terrorists' information among ASEAN members. If it could hurt other member country's image then both sides should talk secretly. For instance Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont blamed the Tom Yum Kung restaurants in Malaysia as a chief financial supporter to the insurgent group in the Deep South of Thailand. He should talk with Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi or let the National Security Council do their work, but not to spread the secret information into public news.

Thirdly, the organization itself, ASEAN, could not do much as it could. The state members are aware of the association when it needs something but not trying to contribute that much. The secretariat is more like an organizer to conduct the meeting instead of pushing the issue and forcefully making the declaration into a more active and active approach. A strong secretariat would be a perfect answer with a vigorous commitment of state members to help each other in order to counterterrorism. A representative of each member could be another solution as they could foresee the development of this topic.

Moreover, this research also found out that domestic insurgent groups still have a major impact on regional security concerns. And they are also coupled with regional terrorist groups and linked into a wider perspective like a global-link terrorist network. These convey regional security threats and interrupt public life and economic growth of the region. The impact of terrorism comes along in various aspects such as psychological, economic, security and political concerns. So as to have a flourish economic development and stabilize political progress every part of society must join hand-in-hand to contribute and commit to fight against terrorists.