

## COUNTERING AND PREVENTING RADICALIZATION IN INDONESIAN PRISONS

Since 2002 Search for Common Ground has worked with local civil society organisations, the media, conflict survivors and others to develop appropriate and innovative conflict transformation initiatives in Indonesia. In 2009 the US Embassy Jakarta granted resources to implement a two-year project that aimed to counter and prevent radicalization in Indonesian prisons. In partnership with the Directorate for Corrections within the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the programme specifically focused on key corrections institutions in several vulnerable regions throughout Indonesia. The project was launched to **transform the way in which prison officials handle terrorist and at-risk prisoners within the Indonesian corrections system**. To accomplish this, the project engaged prison officials, guards and prisoners in a process of constructive change to counter and prevent radicalization, and to enhance the capacity and sustainability of the overall Indonesian corrections apparatus to play a more active role in de-radicalization processes. These objectives were accomplished through trainings for prison staffs and the development of corrections-wide systems for dealing with high-risk inmates.

This external evaluation utilised both qualitative and quantitative methods. Questionnaires, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were the primary tools of data collection. This process provided an overview of the project, as well as a focused analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the project. The evaluation highlights multiple positive aspects, and also points to areas for improvement.

### PROVIDING BASIC KNOWLEDGE

The SFCG-generated training materials were found to be both contextually appropriate and effective. Trainee's knowledge of terrorism and treatment of high risk prisoners improved over the lifespan of the project. For example, baseline data suggested many prison officials had inadequate knowledge about the standard operation procedure (SOP) for dealing with high-risk inmates (13 "strongly not knowing," 28 "not knowing," 53 "lack of knowing," 17 "knowing" and none "strongly knowing"). Upon the conclusion of the project, the vast majority of those surveyed reported "knowing" (100) the SOP for high-risk prisoners. ***The evaluation found that while the security aspects of the training were well understood, more weight should be given to providing a basic understanding of terrorism in general and Indonesia in particular.***

### ASSESSING HIGH-RISK PRISONERS

As part of improving the SOPs for high-risk prisoners, SFCG sought to instill the importance of properly assessing high-risk prisoners. Such an assessment should include risks and needs of the inmates, as well as communicating with outside sources, particularly religious leaders and institutions and the police; socio-economic, political and spiritual factors should also be taken into account. ***The data shows that, in comparison to the staff who did not undergo the training, trainees had dramatically improved their knowledge of proper needs and risks assessments of high-risk prisoners.*** 71.9% (23 persons) who participated in SFCG trainings were found to have "good" levels of knowledge, while only 28.1% (9 persons) had "sufficient" knowledge. Those who did not participate showed significantly lower levels of knowledge in all categories.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The SOP can be further developed to produce more specific procedures for terrorists;
2. Due to the weakness in SOP ability to provide direction for inmates' treatment it is recommended that risk assessment mechanism incorporate sociological, psychological and mental/spiritual factors. This can be undertaken with specific SOP guidelines as mentioned above. The assessment result can then determine what treatment terrorist inmates require during their incarceration.

3. The Directorate General of Penitentiary needs to initiate a partnership with Human Resources Agency of Justice and Human Rights Department of Republic of Indonesia, to encourage the Science Academy Prison (AKIP) to include the SOP in its curriculum. This will ensure the sustainability of the SOP. SFCG can take part in facilitating this effort.
4. To support the socialization efforts and exchange knowledge between penitentiary officers from different prisons should meet regularly. The meetings can be facilitated by Directorate General of Penitentiary or Regional Office or a third party if needed. Essential participants are: the head of the prisons technical unit along with related officials under it, officer and community advisers, and the representatives from the other related organizations in the community.

*Source: This document is a summary of, and taken directly from “Program Evaluation Report: Countering and Preventing Radicalization in Indonesian Prisons”. A copy of this document can be acquired at <http://www.sfcg.org/sfcg/evaluations/indonesia.html>, or by contacting Nick Oatley, Director of Institutional Learning at Search for Common Ground at [noatley@sfcg.org](mailto:noatley@sfcg.org)*

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