

Al-Hesbah forum users call for hostage-taking attacks to prevent the execution of terrorists on the island of Bali

At the end of October 2008, Indonesia's Attorney General announced the planned execution of three terrorist suspects responsible for the 2002 terrorist attacks in Bali,



which left 202 people (mostly tourists) dead. The three terrorists -- Imam Samudra, Amrozi and Mukhlas, also known as Ali Ghufuran -- belong to the radical organization Jemaah Islamiah (JI) and would be executed by firing squad at the beginning of November.¹

Fearing retaliatory attacks, the Indonesian police decided to increase security and alertness levels around central tourist sites following the announcement. After threats were posted on the internet and Indonesian police received a letter threatening assassination, security was increased around President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and other senior officials, as well as around the U.S. and Australian embassies.²

¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/oct/24/indonesia-terrorism> ,
<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Indonesia-to-execute-Bali-bombers-in-early-November/377647>

² <http://old.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20081105.H01&irec=0> ,
<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-36317920081104> ,
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/militants-vow-revenge-for-executions/1352163.aspx>

This issue was also addressed in prominent Jihadi forums, including Al-Hesbah.

On November 4, a forum user calling himself Dr. Fadhel, who has been a registered member since July 2008, wrote the following:³

"Security was increased at some of the embassies; particularly the embassy of the United States, Gt. Britain and Australia, as well as around public places and tourism sites...the situation was just like in Iraq – checkpoints all over. Australia and New Zealand warned their citizens not to travel to Indonesia in the coming days."

Another forum user, a member since January 2006, wrote in response:

"We call upon Allah to enable the Mujahideen to free the three brothers before the execution and if the execution is carried out, we ask that Allah enable the Mujahideen to revenge their blood."

A member of the forum since October 2004 added: "I do not see any other solution but to kidnap heretic westerners immediately."

Abu Al-Bara, who has been registered on the forum since May 2004, supported this statement and added: "Either to kidnap one of the Indonesian ambassadors in this or that country, or one of their diplomatic representatives and threaten to kill them if the brothers are executed."

In addition to these responses, which basically called for urgent action to be taken in order to prevent the execution, emails were also sent encouraging the three terrorist suspects and expressing the hope that they would enter the gates of paradise.⁴

³ His publication was written both in English and in Arabic <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=197667> .

⁴ <http://www.al-hesbah.info/v/showthread.php?t=197662>