Abstract

The bombings in Bali on 12 October 2002 has shown that the Jamaah Islamiyah (JI), Islamist terrorist organization, has emerged as the biggest threat to Southeast Asian security. JI, which has Indonesian origins, seeks to establish a Daulah Islamiyah Nusantara, or an archipelagic Islamic Southeast Asian state incorporating Indonesia, Malaysia, the southern Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, and southern Thailand, Cambodia, Australia included. Despite the arrest of Abu Bakar Ba'asyir and Hambali, JI's key figures, the group remains active and dangerous.

The study aims to gain a deeper understanding of JI's origin, structure and network in the region. It also focus on the response of the Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore which generally have varied with the intensity of their concerns about the threat to their own stability and domestic politics.

The paper is divided into three chapters. The Chapter One outlines the history and ideological development of JI from its origins in the Indonesia – based 'Darul Islam' movement to its transition as international terrorist group and network of Al – Qa'ida in Southeast Asia. The Chapter Two surveys JI's organization including recruitment and financial structure and its ties with Al – Qa'ida and other radical militant groups in the region. This chapter also looks more closely at two of JI's major operations, the Operation JIBRIL and Bali Bombings, to examine its capability in planning and field operating. The last Chapter looks ahead to examine how the Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore government response the terror of JI and protect its people from the threat of terrorism.