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Existent Terrorism in Indonesia and Opportunities for the Growth of Radical Islam and ISIS

Executive Summary

Historically, a strong authoritarian government and an Asian ethos around the practice of religion have helped curtail radical Islamic fundamentalism in Indonesia. While extremist groups abound, these organizations tend to focus on domestic or regional aspirations. Consequently, although these groups sometimes carry out attacks in the name of global terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda and ISIS, their narrow ambitions are unlikely to align with these groups long-term. Nevertheless, the country provides ISIS with several strategic opportunities, much as it did for al-Qaeda previously.

Key findings include:

• Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), Indonesia's largest extremist group, is ideologically opposed to ISIS, and the other leading groups have shown similar hesitancy to join the global organization. On the other hand, members of the country's myriad smaller terrorist groups provide the majority of Indonesian jihadists traveling to Syria and Iraq. **While each of these groups poses only a limited threat individually, they collectively compose ISIS's main network in the country.**

• The lack of unity among these smaller jihadist groups could evolve into a race to earn ISIS emirship of Indonesia by the leaders of these groups through one-upmanship. Such a development could severely escalate the threat of terrorist attacks in the country.

• ISIS' greatest potential for new recruits in Indonesia is found in the younger generations, emergent groups, and those incarcerated in **the country's prisons, which are breeding grounds for jihadist ideology.**

• ISIS looks to Indonesia as a springboard for ideological expansion into Southeast Asia as it seeks to grow a global caliphate. If the Philippines represents a potential operational hub for radical Islamic fundamentalism in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is the region's potential ideological incubator.

To access the full report click here: http://bit.ly/ISSRiskIndonesia