

Criminal Acts of Terrorism and Treason

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Info Articles	Abstract
Article History Received : 2020-09-07 Revised: 2020-09-17 Published: 2020-09-30 Keywords: <i>Terrorism, Crime, State Security, Criminal Law.</i>	Terrorism is a transnational crime that poses a serious threat to national security, public safety, and social stability. It is characterized by the systematic use or threat of violence to create widespread fear and achieve political, ideological, or religious objectives. The increasing complexity of terrorist activities requires not only effective law enforcement but also a comprehensive understanding of the social, political, and economic factors that contribute to radicalization. This study aims to analyze the concept of terrorism, its characteristics, causes, legal regulation, and its impacts on society. The research employs a qualitative approach using a library research method. Data were collected from secondary sources, including scientific books, academic journals, legislation, and other relevant legal documents, particularly Law Number 15 of 2003 concerning Criminal Acts of Terrorism. The collected data were analyzed descriptively and analytically to identify the relationships among concepts and provide a comprehensive understanding of terrorism. The findings indicate that terrorism is an extraordinary crime characterized by organized networks, ideological indoctrination, and strategic acts of violence directed not only at individuals but also at public facilities and state institutions. The study further reveals that terrorism is driven by multiple factors, including social inequality, poverty, political injustice, weak governance, identity conflicts, and religious radicalism. Its impacts extend beyond physical destruction, affecting political stability, economic development, public trust, and psychological well-being. Indonesian law has established a legal framework to combat terrorism through criminal sanctions and preventive measures; however, legal action alone is insufficient. Effective counterterrorism requires an integrated strategy that combines law enforcement, education, poverty reduction, promotion of religious moderation, community participation, and inter-agency cooperation. Such a comprehensive approach is essential to strengthen national resilience, prevent radicalization, and ensure long-term peace and security.

I. INTRODUCTION

Terrorism has existed for almost as long as the history of human civilization. But it began to be effectively echoed in the Middle Ages when countries or kingdoms were at war, and terror was echoed as one way to win the war. But at that time it was almost too easy to guess who carried out the terror. But now, terror incidents are almost very difficult to predict who the perpetrators are, which organization or country is organizing them. Everything happens underground and amorphous, and the organization is difficult to read or difficult to

know. Nowadays, when we hear the words terrorism, our minds are almost always associated or pictured something negative, the existence of a powerful bomb exploding that destroys buildings and other infrastructure, countless human deaths and other consequences that. It is categorized as a barbaric, immoral, and inhumane act. However, is this really the case? Terrorism and Islam are sometimes equated. If so, what exactly is terrorism?

The problems experienced by the public have raised numerous questions that should be of international concern. For example, do people not

have the right to feel safe? How can we ensure this sense of security? These questions underlie various efforts to resolve them. This is what deserves to be studied as a positive response to these efforts. Therefore, on this occasion, the author is interested in discussing this further in a paper entitled "terrorism."

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research method, which aims to examine in depth the concept of terrorism from various perspectives, including legal, social, and political. The data sources used in this study consist of secondary data, namely scientific books, recent journals, laws and regulations such as Law Number 15 of 2003 concerning Criminal Acts of Terrorism, as well as other relevant documents and literature. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation studies by reviewing, examining, and classifying information related to the definition of terrorism, its characteristics, targets, causal factors, and impacts. Furthermore, the data is analyzed using a descriptive-analytical method, namely by systematically presenting data and then analyzing it to find relationships between concepts to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism. This approach was chosen so that the study can provide a complete and in-depth picture of terrorism.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research result

Based on the results of the study, it was found that terrorism is a crime with complex and multidimensional characteristics. Terrorism is not only understood as an act of violence, but also as a form of crime aimed at creating widespread fear in society to achieve certain interests, whether political, ideological, or group. Conceptually, terrorism has various definitions according to experts, but generally shares the

same principle of using violence against civilians as a means to achieve certain goals.

The research also shows that terrorism has specific characteristics, such as a structured organization, a high level of militancy, and the use of planned strategies to create significant psychological impact. Terrorist targets are not limited to specific individuals but also include vital objects, government officials, and public facilities of high strategic value. This suggests that the primary goal of terrorism is to attract public attention and create instability.

Furthermore, this study found that the causes of terrorism are diverse, including social and economic inequality, injustice, weak governance systems, radicalism, and identity conflicts such as ethnicity and nationalism. These factors are interrelated and can strengthen the emergence of terrorism if not addressed properly.

From a legal perspective, research findings indicate that Indonesia has a clear legal basis for addressing terrorism, specifically through Law Number 15 of 2003. This regulation regulates various forms of terrorism and their sanctions, and authorizes law enforcement officials to take preventive and enforcement measures. Furthermore, provisions in the Criminal Code (KUHP) also address various elements of terrorism-related crimes, such as treason, murder, and the destruction of public facilities.

Furthermore, research results show that the impact of terrorism is far-reaching, not only on security aspects but also on the political, economic, and social systems of society. Terrorism can cause unrest, undermine public trust in the government, and disrupt national stability and the economy, including the tourism sector.

Thus, it can be concluded that terrorism is a serious threat that requires a comprehensive approach. The approach used includes not only law enforcement but also preventive efforts by

addressing the causal factors, thereby creating sustainable stability and security in society.

B. Discussion

Terrorism is a complex phenomenon that encompasses not only legal aspects but also social, political, and psychological dimensions (Widiatmaka, 2023). Terrorism is understood as acts of violence or threats of violence carried out systematically to instill fear in the wider community in order to achieve specific goals, particularly political or ideological ones (Sujatmoko, 2023).

Counterterrorism experts state that terrorists are generally not members of formal armed forces, so their actions are not subject to the laws of legitimate war and tend to violate humanitarian principles (Subari et al., 2024). This makes terrorism an extraordinary crime that requires special handling.

Historically, the term terrorism comes from the Latin word "terrere," meaning to frighten, which later evolved into the concept of violent acts intended to create mass fear (Atqiya et al., 2024). In practice, terrorism is often disguised with various terms such as jihad or struggle, even though these actions contradict humanitarian values and religious teachings (Saputra et al., 2024).

The characteristics of terrorist perpetrators indicate a structured organization, high discipline, and a lengthy indoctrination process before carrying out an act (Hutami et al., 2023). They tend to reject peaceful means and choose violence as a means to achieve political goals.

Furthermore, terrorism targets more than just physical victims, but also aims to create psychological and political impacts, such as reducing public trust in the government and triggering social conflict (Darma, 2024). Mass media is also often used as a propaganda tool to expand the effects of terror.

In the Indonesian legal context, acts of terrorism are specifically regulated in various laws and regulations that emphasize strict sanctions for perpetrators (Sarah et al., 2024). Furthermore, the legal approach is complemented by a human rights approach, particularly in protecting victims (Sujatmoko, 2023).

The causes of terrorism include social injustice, poverty, radicalism, and identity crises that drive individuals or groups to commit violence (Saputra et al., 2024). Socioeconomic factors and extreme religious beliefs are also key triggers for acts of terrorism.

The impacts of terrorism are far-reaching, ranging from disrupting political stability and diminishing public trust to economic losses and social trauma. Therefore, addressing terrorism must be comprehensive, encompassing legal, social, economic, and educational approaches.

Overall, terrorism is a serious threat to national and global security, so cross-sector and cross-country cooperation is needed to prevent and address it effectively.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

It can be concluded from the paper that we have described above that the factors causing the increase in terrorist crimes include:

- 1) Ethnicity, nationalism/separatism. These acts of terror occur in areas plagued by inter-ethnic/tribal conflict or in nations seeking independence. Spreading terror is ultimately used as a means to achieve goals or as a tool of struggle.
- 2) Poverty and inequality and globalization. Poverty and inequality have proven to be social problems that can trigger terrorism.
- 3) Non-democratic. Non-democratic rulers are also very likely to resort to repressive measures against their people. This isolation creates a fertile culture for the growth of terrorism.

- 4) Violation of human dignity. The devalued group will seek ways to be heard, acknowledged, and treated equally.
- 5) The same as the others. This kind of atmosphere will once again encourage the proliferation of terror.
- 6) Religious radicalism. Religious radicalism is unique because its underlying motives are sometimes illusory. Religious radicalism is partly fostered by its adherents' worldview. They believe the world is being controlled by dark forces, and as messengers of God, they feel called to liberate it from the clutches of evil hands.

B. Suggestion

Based on the discussion, counterterrorism efforts need to be comprehensive, integrating repressive and preventive approaches. The government is expected to rely not only on firm law enforcement against perpetrators, but also strengthen prevention efforts by improving public welfare to reduce social disparities and poverty that can fuel radicalism. Furthermore, the education system needs to be strengthened, particularly in instilling values of tolerance, religious moderation, and legal awareness from an early age to prevent the public from being easily influenced by extremist ideologies. Security forces also need to improve coordination and early detection capabilities for potential terrorist threats. Furthermore, the community plays a crucial role in maintaining a safe social environment by reporting suspicious activity.

With synergy between the government, authorities, and the community, it is hoped that terrorism prevention and counterterrorism efforts can be more effective and sustainable.

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