

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

This chapter discusses the analysis of the data and the findings of the analysis.

4.1 The Data Analysis

The first data: Jakarta Post Newspaper dated on March 04, 2005.

Ba'asyir found guilty, sentenced to 30 months

The Jakarta Post
Jakarta

The headline-grabbing trial of Abu Bakar Ba'asyir came to a close on Thursday with a two-and-a-half-year jail sentence for the Muslim cleric for his part in the "evil conspiracy" that killed 202 people in Bali in October 2002.

"Abu Bakar Ba'asyir alias Abu Somad alias Abdus Somad has been found guilty of involvement in an evil conspiracy to cause an explosion that caused death and endangered the lives of others," presiding Judge Suharto said.

Such an act carries a maximum term of five years in jail under Article 187 of the Criminal Code.

The South Jakarta District Court judges relied on the sworn testimony of Mubarak, who was convicted for his role in the Bali bombings, who cited a conversation between Amrozi and Ba'asyir about holding an "event" in Bali, which the court interpreted as proof that Ba'asyir had conspired in the bombings.

Amrozi, who was sentenced to death, was never himself summoned to attend the trial.

Given the fact that Ba'asyir has been detained since April last year, he will serve only one and a half years in prison, which equals the punishment

he received for violating immigration regulations during his previous trial.

The Yemeni-born cleric lost his freedom a few weeks after the Bali blasts. Police believe he is the spiritual leader of regional terrorist network Jamaah Islamiyah (JI), which has been blamed for a string of bomb attacks in the country over the last five years.

Out of the eight charges in the indictment laid by the prosecutors, only one, a subsidiary charge, was accepted by the court. The prosecution had recommended a sentence of eight years for the cleric.

After the verdict was read out, havoc broke out in the makeshift courtroom with hundreds of Ba'asyir supporters shouting and cursing the judges, while dozens of women wearing veils wept over the decision.

Scores of police officers quickly formed a human fence to protect the judges while dozens of others escorted the five judges and 14 prosecutors as they left the courtroom.

"I refuse to accept the verdict. This is a despotic decision. *Insha Allah* (God willing), I will appeal," said Ba'asyir, responding to the verdict.

Outside the courtroom, Ba'asyir supporters from various militant organizations, such as the Islamic Defenders Front (DFI) and Hamas,

cramped the parking lot to listen to a speech by Habib Rizieq, the FPI leader.

Most of the cleric's 1,500 supporters arrived in 25 buses with Yogyakarta and Surakarta number plates, laid on by the Indonesian Mujahidin Council (MMI).

About 3,000 police officers and two water cannon were deployed to provide security

around the courtroom.

South Jakarta Police chief Sr. Comr. Ghufron said before the handing down of the verdict that his men had found four molotov cocktails in the parking area.

"We haven't found the perpetrators, but thank God this area has been neutralized since 4 p.m. yesterday," he said.

The second data: Jakarta Post dated on March 05, 2005.

fuel price hike People feel bite of

The Jakarta Post
Jakarta

People began to feel the bite of the fuel price hikes on Friday on the beaches and in the streets, with some fishermen abandoning their boats in coastal areas, while in the cities passengers fought with bus drivers over increased fares.

In the northern coastal area of West Java, many fishermen left their boats tied to piers after diesel prices rose to between Rp 2,400 and Rp 2,500 a liter in Gebang, Cirebon, higher than the official Rp 2,100 (about 23 US cents) a liter.

About 8,000 fishing families were affected.

"We'll wait until the diesel fuel prices stabilize. Even with the subsidized prices, we found it difficult to keep fishing, and even more so with the high retail prices now," said 24-year-old Karsan from Gebang.

The remote location of the village contributed to the high price of diesel, he said. A gas station for the fishermen reportedly built by former first husband's Taufik Kiemas had gone out of business a while before, he said.

A Dadap fisherman, Kusnadi, said he would have to borrow money before he could finance a fishing trip under the current conditions. Fuel, food and ice would cost him about Rp 100,000, he said.

"Other fishermen are also trying to find more money, either by borrowing it from the cooperative or switching to other jobs like becoming construction workers," Kusnadi said.

In Manado, North Sulawesi, the Indonesian Fishermen's Association (HNSI) said local administrations should charge fishermen less levies, and make fishing permits cheaper

and less time-consuming.

"These recommendations should be immediately implemented since the fuel price hikes have caused so much suffering to so many fishermen," HNSI chairman Ferry Kokali said.

Meanwhile, in the streets of **Bandarlampung**, the price hikes triggered violent a spate of incidents between passengers and public minivan drivers.

On Friday, a construction worker Purnomo erupted into a public bus rage when his normal Rp 1,000 fare was thrown back in his face by a minivan driver's assistant, Rudi, who cursed him and demanded he pay Rp 3,000.

Other passengers managed to separate the two.

"If you ask for fare hike, be logical. If you raise the fare to Rp 3,000, it's too much," Purnomo said.

The fight was one of 15 recorded by public order officials on Friday. In **Pekanbaru**, the public transport service returned to normal Friday following strikes by hundreds of minivan drivers during the last couple of days. The drivers agreed to 20 percent fare increase.

In **Bandung**, a food seller, Uni, complained about the high price of rice. Previously, she bought 50 kg of rice at Rp 140,000, but the price had continued to rise. Now, with the fuel price hikes, she was paying around Rp 195,000.

In Central Java town of **Surakarta**, some 1,500 factory workers, students and Muslim youth groups demanded on Friday the replacement of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's economic team.

"The government is too arrogant, raising fuel prices at a time when the people's welfare is at the lowest point," Sebelas Maret University student president Ikhlas Thamrin said.

The third data: Jakarta Post dated on March 09, 2005.

Tension eases as RI pulls out warships

The Jakarta Post
Jakarta/Sebatik Island

Tension between Indonesia and Malaysia over border and mineral resources subsided on Tuesday with the Navy pulling out its warships from the disputed maritime area of Ambalat in the Sulawesi Sea.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who was touring the islands near the disputed area off the eastern coast of Kalimantan, insisted that the ~~two countries would not put~~ their good ties at stake just because of a border issue.

Chief of the Navy's Eastern Fleet Rear Adm. Soesilarto, who was among the President's entourage, said he had ordered five of the seven warships that had been on guard in the Ambalat area to return to their base in Surabaya.

The withdrawal followed an agreement between leaders of the two countries to send their foreign ministers to Jakarta for talks to settle the dispute, which are scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

Concluding his tour of Sebatik Island on Tuesday, the President said the two countries would avoid a confrontation.

"(Our) bilateral ties have not undergone any rapid, unexpected changes. Don't imagine that the two countries' bilateral ties are in a critical condition. Good ties will not be severed in such a short time... I think we are in a more friendly, neighborly mood than in the past," Susilo said, adding that Indonesia was not the enemy of Malaysia.

Indonesia dispatched over the weekend seven warships and four F-16 jet fighters for closer surveillance over two deep-water blocks claimed by Malaysia to be its territory. Hundreds of soldiers and thousands of others were ready for deployment to the disputed area to counter the presence of Malaysian warships and patrol planes there.

The TNI chief said all four F-16s would stay at Balikpapan air base, while the remaining two warships would continue their patrols.

"Malaysia has only sent two small patrol boats out there, so it's not necessary for us to counter with bigger vessels," Endriartono said.

He added that the dispute would encourage the TNI to ask for an increase in the defense budget when the government proposed a revision to the state budget next month.

"Most of the additional money will be used for upgrading Navy and Air Force equipment," he told *The Jakarta Post*.

The dispute emerged after Malaysia's state-owned oil company Petronas awarded production sharing contracts to Shell in the oil-and-gas-rich water blocks last month. Jakarta protested Malaysia's claim over the territory but to no avail.

The country's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), and the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) joined the campaign for a peaceful settlement.

The NU's leader, Hasyim Muzadi, said the organization supported the use of diplomacy to resolve the row as it would prevent intervention by a third party.

"We should learn from the conflicts between Iran and Iraq and between Iraq and Kuwait, when a third party played a hidden role. Indonesia and Malaysia, two Muslim countries in Southeast Asia, should maintain their brotherhood to keep a third party from causing disorder," Hasyim said in Medan, North Sumatra.

Despite the call for peace, anti-Malaysia rallies were staged across the country on Tuesday. Protesters demanded the government declare war to maintain Indonesia's sovereignty over the disputed waters.

Thousands of students and youths in major cities of Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi took to the streets, calling out that they were ready for battle.

The fourth data: Jakarta Post dated on March 27, 2005.

Acehnese struggle for normalcy three months after tsunami

Achmad Sukarsono
Reuters/Banda Aceh

Near the seafood market where he worked until killer waves smashed it to bits three months ago, Alimuddin is selling fish again in the provincial capital of Aceh.

A massive Indian Ocean earthquake on Dec. 26 sent a tsunami crashing into coasts around the region. Aceh was hardest hit. Almost a quarter of a million Acehnese were killed or are missing, and more than 500,000 survivors lost their homes.

Alimuddin's wife died, his house was leveled and his workplace was wrecked when the waves hit Banda Aceh.

But after mourning for months as the city was cleared of rubble and bodies, he went back to work.

"I feel things are getting back to normal. It is really the time for us to move on," said the mustachioed Alimuddin while chopping a fish for an aged Banda Aceh resident who had returned after fleeing to a nearby province.

Alimuddin and his customer are living proof the worst fears about the tsunami's after-effects haven't been realized.

Just after the disaster experts worried of many more deaths from hunger and disease, and thought it could be several months before the economy showed sparks of life.

Those concerns proved largely unfounded as governments, private aid groups and militaries rushed in food and medicine and set up shelters.

And the Acehnese showed a toughness many have praised.

Erskine Bowles, deputy United Nations special envoy for tsunami recovery, told reporters on Friday he had witnessed their resilience.

"When you're on the ground and you see the devastation, it's hard to even comprehend. But then the good part happens. Then you meet the Acehnese people and they are the strongest people I have ever met in my life."

Bowles was White House chief of staff when Bill Clinton was U.S. president. Clinton is now an UN tsunami special envoy and he and Bowles are encouraging donors to dig deep into their pockets to help tsunami-affected nations.

"Now, we've finished the sprint. We're now on to the marathon," said Bowles.

Part of the challenge is to get more victims like Alimuddin back on the job.

"I want to work again. I need a barrow and shovel to go back to my job but who will help me?" said Muhammad Saleh, a villager from Aceh's flattened west coast region of Leupung who once mined sand used in construction work.

Aid agencies say providing jobs is a top priority. Mohamed Sale-

heen, head of the UN's World Food Program office in Indonesia, told *Reuters*: "I hope and I'm sure that there will be avenues targeted on their livelihood under the blueprint," referring to a long-awaited plan of action for recovery and reconstruction Indonesia has promised.

Vice President Jusuf Kalla is scheduled to discuss the plan with Acehnese leaders on Saturday, but Alwi Shihab, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare put in charge of Aceh after the disaster, has said it would be several days before it was final.

Many ready to commit aid or undertake projects have been told to wait until the plan is announced before going ahead.

It may also shed light on the presence of international agencies after weeks of confusion over their future.

Their high visibility — more than 150 non-government agencies alone are in Aceh — has ruffled nationalistic feathers and raised security issues in the province, where the government has been fighting pro-independence rebels for decades.

Staff of the United Nations' refugee agency left Aceh on Thursday after Jakarta decided their presence was unnecessary. A UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) housing project was shifted to another UN agency.

Survivors worry over quake rumors

The Jakarta Post
Medan/Jakarta

A fresh wave of panic swept through Simeulue island off the coast of Aceh on Friday, with most of the population heading for the hills after rumors of an imminent major earthquake and subsequent tsunami broke.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Nias island off North Sumatra, rescue teams continued hunting for survivors trapped beneath the debris although hopes were dwindling four days after the 8.7-magnitude quake struck, with many survivors complaining of hunger.

The majority of the 78,000 hungry and terrified Simeuleu islanders left their homes after hearing of an imminent earthquake predicted to be even bigger than Monday's quake, Simeulue district chief Darmili told AFP.

Aftershocks intensified the panic on the island, and most of the residents are now too afraid to return. The death toll remains at 17 there.

UN operations coordinator in the Nias capital of Gunung Sitoli Francois Desruisseaux said the fourth day after such a disaster was critical, and the possibility of finding more survivors was diminishing.

"Most victims who can survive can do so for up to four days. The fourth day is critical," he said, but he added that search and rescue efforts would continue for several more days.

The UN estimated the death toll in Nias to have reached 1,300 on Friday.

After overcoming logistical bottlenecks caused by the damaged airport and roads and stormy seas, equipment, food and medical supplies began pouring into Gunung Sitoli, which has become a teeming hub for aid distribution.

Boats were lining up in the city's harbor to unload trucks, lifting equipment, food, water, tents and other supplies.

A ship carrying 350 metric tons of food including, rice, cooking oil and fish was unloaded late on Thursday. French Red Cross teams arrived with water purification kits, bottled water and generators.

The World Food Program deployed a ship to the island on Friday with 100 tons of food, 4,000 tents and water sanitation equipment, while two more ships, with a combined load of 220 tons of non-food aid, were also headed for the island.

Despite army engineers' efforts, most of the roads on Nias remained blocked to ordinary vehicles, while

gasoline was in short supply, complicating efforts to move food and medicine beyond Gunung Sitoli.

Such a situation means many are still without food and medical assistance, even a short distance outside the main city.

"It's difficult to find water, difficult to eat. I had to seek refuge in the hills for two nights," said Marian Amri, a 26-year-old mother of three who was trying to leave the Nias port of Gunung Sitoli with her family.

Emergency repairs to the airstrip on Nias allowed small commercial flights to resume operations on Friday and were expected to help speed up relief, which has until now relied on a helicopter lifeline and slow sea traffic.

The port of Sibolga on mainland Sumatra, which has been used to transfer supplies, is jammed as aid groups scramble to load supplies onto its sole daily passenger ship to Nias.

Gunung Sitoli was still largely without water and electricity and in desperate need of heavy-lifting equipment to search through the rubble for survivors and bodies.

Relief chopper crashes on Nias

Associated Press
Canberra

An Australian navy helicopter carrying up to 11 people crashed on Saturday on the earthquake-devastated island of Nias, the defense ministry said, and media reported that nine people were killed.

The navy Sea King helicopter crashed in the afternoon near the town of Gunung Sitoli, off the west coast of Sumatra, a defense statement said.

The helicopter was from an Australian navy transport ship that arrived on Saturday from Singapore after three months of providing tsunami relief in Aceh.

Up to 11 people, including the helicopter's crew of three, were

on board, the statement said, without giving further details.

Head of the North Sumatra information office R.E. Nainggolan said the chopper crashed in Teluk Dalam, adding that the fate of its 11 passengers was not clear.

The *Australian Associated Press (AAP)* — which had a journalist on the transport ship, the *HMAS Kanimbla* — quoted the captain as saying nine people were killed in the crash.

Commander George McGuire was quoted as saying two survivors were airlifted to the *Kanimbla* for emergency surgery.

"They are in a serious condition with leg fractures and other injuries," McGuire said. "We believe the rest of the personnel died."

Defense officials in Australia

were not immediately available for comment.

McGuire told the *AAP* that the helicopter was ferrying an emergency medical team to a remote village as part of relief efforts when it crashed.

Five naval personnel as well as three from the Air Force and one member of the Army were on board the helicopter. Seven of the dead were male and two were female, McGuire was quoted as saying.

McGuire said the transport ship was headed toward the crash site on the southern tip of Nias.

The crew on the *Kanimbla* cried and bowed their heads in shock in the ship's mess room when McGuire broke the news that their colleagues had been killed, *AAP* reported.

World bids farewell to Pope

Philip Pullella
and Crispian Balmer
Reuters/Vatican City

The poor and powerful joined in a final farewell to Pope John Paul II on Friday at a momentous Vatican funeral watched by hundreds of millions of people across the world he had traveled.

Flags and banners, many from the Pope's native Poland, bobbed in the ocean of humanity that stretched from St. Peter's Square for as far as the eye could see.

"Santo subito" (Make him a saint immediately), pilgrims chanted in Italian, holding up the open-air funeral Mass several times in an outpouring of emotion for a giant of the 20th century.

"We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger told hundreds of thousands of people packed into the windswept square.

To the sound of choirs singing in Latin, the tolling of a giant bell and a seemingly endless wave of applause, 12 pall bearers carried away John Paul's simple cypress-wood coffin from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica as the Mass ended.

It was turned for one last time to face the square where the world's third-longest serving pope had said thousands of Masses and was then taken down to the crypt below for burial, encased in two further caskets.

Millions of Catholics who could not get to Italy instead bid farewell to the Pope in myriad services around the globe.

"It is almost like being there in Rome," said Georgina Vega, a primary school teacher, at a Mass in the Basilica de Guadalupe, Mexico's holiest shrine. "Being here with a candle, sharing the warmth with others, transports me there."

But the funeral went well beyond Catholicism. It was watched in mainly Muslim Egypt, in Jewish Israel and even in Iran, where some

ignored a ban on satellite dishes.

"This is an important historical event. I want to be part of the world and watch it," said Arezu, a 38-year-old Shiite Muslim teacher in Tehran who declined to give her full name.

The last journey of a man who traveled the equivalent of 30 times the circumference of the earth during

his reign, was his shortest — a few hundred meters from church to crypt.

Nearly 7 hours after the elaborate funeral rites had started, John Paul was laid to rest under the ground in an alcove of the crypt. It was 2:20 p.m. (7:20 p.m. in Jakarta).

Five kings, six queens and at least 70 presidents and prime ministers attended the funeral service, paying homage to a Pope who helped bring down the Iron Curtain, urged unity between faiths and stamped a strict orthodoxy on his own Church.

Among 2,500 dignitaries of all faiths and races who attended were U.S. President George W. Bush, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Britain's Prince Charles and various Middle East leaders.

But Beata Bilyk, an 18-year-old pilgrim from Poland, spoke for an entire nation: "Our whole world will be different now. I don't know what we will do without him to lead us."

The Vatican funeral capped a week that saw millions of faithful queue for up to 15 hours to file past his body.

The first non-Italian pope in 455 years died last Saturday after a decade of suffering and sickness, unleashing an outpouring of grief within the Roman Catholic Church and beyond.

The funeral even brought a hint of the reconciliation between nations that John Paul championed.

Israeli President Moshe Katsav said he shook hands with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, a country formally at war with Israel, and spoke to President Mohammad Khatami of Iran, which is also deeply hostile to the Jewish state.

The funeral ended a security nightmare for Italy, which had closed the airspace over central Rome and called in extra forces, anti-aircraft missiles and patrol boats to guard possibly the biggest ever gathering of world leaders.

With the funeral over, the Roman Catholic Church embarks on a new era. On April 18 cardinals will enter a conclave entrusted with the daunting task of electing John Paul's successor.

There is no favorite candidate to take over. Wojtyla was himself regarded as an outsider when he was elevated to the papacy on Oct. 16, 1978.

But he appointed all but 3 of the 117 cardinals who are eligible to vote for a successor, thus stacking the odds that his conservative teachings will not be tampered with.

The new man will have to lead the world's 1.1 billion Catholics in an era marked by tension between religions, between science and ethics, between doctrine and social pressure to change and open up to contraception, women, married priests.

RI, China seal multibillion deal to strengthen trade

Rendi A. Witalar
The Jakarta Post/Jakarta

Indonesia, the nation with the world's largest Muslim population, has signed bilateral agreements with the world's biggest communist country, China, to promote trade between them worth billions of dollars.

The deals mark a significant improvement in relations between the two nations since the downfall of the authoritarian Soeharto regime in 1998. Soeharto, who seized power in 1965, cut diplomatic ties with China in 1967.

Monday's agreements were designed to strengthen the strategic partnership between Indonesia and China, focusing on politics, security, trade, investment and social affairs.

The agreements were signed by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao. Hu is in Jakarta for a two-day state visit after attending the Asian-African Summit last week.

"The agreements mark a new historic milestone in our relations. The meeting with President Hu was very productive with concrete results that can be followed up at the ministerial level," Susilo said in a joint press briefing with Hu.

Susilo and Hu expected that the agreements would pave the way for both countries to expand bilateral trade to reach US\$20 billion over the next three years, from the current \$14 billion.

Hu described the meeting with Susilo as "successful", saying both countries would explore possible cooperation in other fields to strengthen the influence of the two nations within the region.

"China and Indonesia have the opportunity to develop together and seek solutions to settle challenges faced by the two countries in the international arena," he said.

Hu said Susilo had agreed to accept his invitation to visit China in the immediate future.

Aside from the partnership agreements, both countries also signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) on maritime cooperation, infrastructure and natural resources cooperation, a \$30 million grant for economic and technical cooperation, and a joint Indonesia-China project for the construction of a friendship village for tsunami victims in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Nias.

In addition to this, both countries have also signed agreements on visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic and service passports, and an agreement on cooperation between Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) and China's earthquake administration in relation to earthquake and tsunami disasters.

China has also pledged some \$300 million in preferential buyer credit to assist reconstruction works in tsunami-stricken Aceh and Nias.

China has also disbursed some \$1.5 million in financial aid, as well as \$500,000 worth of logistical aid, to help tsunami victims.

For Indonesia, which is rich in natural resources, the agreements are part of an effort to take advantage of China's booming economy, as well as to build a future regional alliance in the defense and security sectors.

"Although we have yet to seal any concrete agreement on defense and security this time, we have agreed that there will be training for military officers between the two nations, as well as joint military training," said Susilo.

As for China, the world's most populous nation, closer relations with Southeast Asia's largest economy is seen as a crucial step to help fuel its economic growth and to accentuate its regional dominance as the world's next superpower.