



## Singapore: Donations to Islamic Organizations and Terrorism Financing

**OE Watch Commentary:** The accompanying article from Indonesian *Antaranews* discusses the arrests of three Indonesian workers in Singapore for terrorism financing. According to the article, sometimes Indonesians in Singapore believe they are making donations to good causes, without realizing that the Islamic organizations receiving the donations are connected to terrorist or extremist groups. The article demonstrates Singapore's concerted effort to prevent its territory from being used for terrorism financing even when conducted inadvertently by Indonesian workers.

In the cases depicted in the article, four Indonesians were suspected of having violated Singapore's Terrorism Act, although one was subsequently released. The other three were tried and sentenced to between 18 and 48 months in prison for sending several hundred US dollars to charitable organizations in Indonesia. As the article notes, it is not clear whether "the three Indonesian citizens know that the donations they have given were for terrorism activities."

Following their sentencing, Singapore urged other migrant workers in the country to be highly cautious of where their donations were going because terrorist or extremist organizations mask themselves as ordinary charitable organizations to receive funding.

The article notes that one solution to the problem of Indonesian workers inadvertently sending money to terrorist or extremist organizations is for them to send the money through Indonesia's official zakat institution that has permission from the Ministry of Religion. The government will then ensure the money lands in the hands of genuine charitable organizations. This is imperative for many Indonesians because providing zakat, or charitable giving, is one of their Islamic obligations. In addition, the article notes that Singapore and Indonesia cooperated during the trials and that Indonesia was able to provide consular and legal support to the Indonesians who were convicted. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



Singapore Old-Supreme-Court-Building.

Source: CEphoto, Uwe Aranas via Wikimedia, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Singapore\\_Old-Supreme-Court-Building-01.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Singapore_Old-Supreme-Court-Building-01.jpg), CC BY SA 3.0

***“Indonesian citizens were suspected of making donations to organizations which turned out to be financing radical activities.”***

**Source:** “Tiga WNI di Singapura Bersalah, BNPT Ingatkan Berhati-hati Berdonasi (Three Indonesian citizens in Singapore were Guilty, BNPT Reminds about Being Careful when Donating).” *Antaranews.com*, 10 March 2020. [https://sumsel.antaranews.com/nasional/berita/1346726/tiga-wni-di-singapura-bersalah-bnpt-ingatkan-berhati-hati-berdonasi?utm\\_source=antaranews&utm\\_medium=nasional&utm\\_campaign=antaranews](https://sumsel.antaranews.com/nasional/berita/1346726/tiga-wni-di-singapura-bersalah-bnpt-ingatkan-berhati-hati-berdonasi?utm_source=antaranews&utm_medium=nasional&utm_campaign=antaranews)

*Head of the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) Suhardi Alius reminded Indonesians in Singapore to be more careful in making donations following three Indonesians' being convicted by Singapore authorities for sending money to organizations suspected of being affiliated with terrorists. He claimed to have reviewed three Indonesian citizens' cases who were found guilty by the Singapore government. From the information he obtained, Indonesian citizens were suspected of making donations to organizations which turned out to be financing radical activities. However, it cannot be concluded if the three Indonesian citizens know that the donations they have given were for terrorism activities because they cannot intervene in the authority of authorities in Singapore.*

*The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore also assisted during the trial process and provided legal assistance in the form of counseling by lawyers to ensure the three Indonesian citizens were treated fairly and obtained their rights. The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore appealed to all Indonesian citizens in Singapore not to easily trust certain teachings, persuasions, and pleas from irresponsible parties. “If you are going to send a donation, it can be submitted to the official Amil Zakat Institution that has obtained permission from the Ministry of Religion,” he said.*