

RELEASE IN FULL

From: McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2011 6:52 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: UBL Death - Media/Internet Reaction in Indonesia

Wanted to give you an idea of how we are monitoring coverage --- traditional and on-line --- around the world. By and large positive, with predictable negative comments from fundamentalist press and commentators.

From: Belmont, Paul T
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 12:16 AM
To: Hodges, Thomas M
Cc: Schalow, Kathryn; Stout, Jennifer P; Kurzbauer, Ruth A; Daigle, J. Jeff; EAP-P-Office-DL; Roskamp, Phillip W; Sanders, Corina R; Washington, Don Q
Subject: UBL Death - Media/Internet Reaction in Indonesia

Thomas,

Hello. Here is the quick read that you requested from Indonesian media on the death of Osama bin Laden.

The bin Laden killing is a lead story in all media. Most of the reporting has been straightforward or supportive in line with Indonesian public's predominant disapproval of Islamic based terrorism and the GOI's active anti-terrorist campaigns. Negative reaction has come from expected sources, hard-line fundamentalist groups or commentators. There has been an interesting local connection noted in the press about the arrest last month of Indonesian terrorist Umar Patek in the same Pakistani city where bin Laden was slain, Abbottabad.

All major print dailies carried front page reports on the killing and excerpts from President Obama's announcement on May 1. The largest Muslim daily, Republika, carried the entire text in a full page article.

Below are some snippets from the Indonesian media:

1) Front Page Highlights:

Osama Bin Laden Shot to Death (Kompas) Osama Dead (Republika) World Keeps Alert (Media Indonesia) Cornered Since March (Koran tempo)

U.S. President Barack Obama announced the death of the founder and leader of Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden on Sunday, May 1. Osama was reported dead in a secret military operation held on early morning Monday in a location where Osama was hiding in Abbottabad

2) Supportive Commentary:

The Death of Osama Bin Laden (Kompas, p.6; editorial)

The death of Osama Bin Laden must be seen as a moment to increase awareness since there may be a possibility that his followers will retaliate. Indonesia also needs to anticipate this following recent bomb threats. Regardless of Osama's ideology, we are against the terrorism and the terrorist ideology he adhered to. The peace and the nobility of human beings condemns the way Osama achieved his political goals. With

this attitude, we are determined to combat terrorism they way the U.S. hunted Osama Bin Laden and combats Al Qaeda.

3) Many commentaries carried a note of caution that bin Laden's death should not be interpreted as the end of fundamentalist jihad terrorist activities and that continued vigilance would be needed in Indonesia and elsewhere. There were many reports of increased GOI security measures to protect against any possible attacks from local terrorist groups.

Print:

After Bin Laden Killed (Koran Tempo)

Osama Bin Laden's death is not the end of the war against terrorism. On the contrary, terrorist movement may become stronger since terrorist networks are not bound to its leaders. Bombings in Indonesia prove that. It is not necessary to have a direct connection between Al Qaeda and bombing perpetrators. Thus, the death of the number one terrorist fugitive should not be a reason to let down our guard.... Indonesian security must be more alert because Osama and Al Qaeda has become a symbol and inspiration to fight. The media noted that top Indonesian terrorist Umar Patrek, was apprehended in Abbottabad, Pakistan last month --- a significant coincidence with obvious implications for an Al Qaeda connection.

From top on-line media:

Osama Dead, SBY Asked Indonesia To Stay Alert

(VIVAnews, Kompas.com, Tempo Interaktif, Detik, 5/2) President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asked Indonesia to stay alert after Osama bin Laden shot to death. Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs said that the President thought that is the best way to anticipate possible counter attacks. "President asked the people, TNI and national police to stay alert," said Djoko. Djoko called for a meeting with political and security officials to anticipate impacts of Osama's death. "Intelligence agents and police work more intensively to protect nation's security.

Embassy Twitter Response: There were comments of praise and criticism on Embassy Twitter, with most criticisms suggesting this will provoke a violent reply from radicals.

TV:

Government Increases Security For Vital Areas (SCTV, Metro TV, TV One 5/2)

Following Osama's death, the Indonesian government has increased security for several vital areas, such as foreign embassies, including the U.S. Embassy although there has not been any special request by the U.S. Embassy. The Indonesian National Police (INP) Chief General Timur Pradopo said on Monday, May 2, that despite no special request, the INP would still help protect U.S. citizens here. Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) Commander-in-Chief Admiral Agus Suhartono also added that the TNI has increased alertness to prevent unwanted incidents and he asked the people to immediately report if they spot any unusual things.

4) Omar Patek Connection?

Umar Patek Planned to Meet with Osama Bin Laden (Koran Tempo 5/3, p.A2)

Umar Patek, who was the mastermind of the Bali Bombing in 2002, was suspected of intending to meet with Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, before he was captured last January. Patek was arrested in Abbottabad, the city where Bin Laden was living. A source at BIN said that Patek is connected to Bin Laden.

Patek's visit to Pakistan is believed to have been connected with a plan to meet a number of Al Qaeda figures to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

5) Negative Commentary

Ba'asyir: Osama Dead, U.S. Will be in Disaster

(VIVAnews, Republika Online, 5/2) (Indicted terrorist suspect) Abu Bakar Ba'asyir said that Osama bin Laden's death will bring disaster to the U.S. because he died as martyr for carrying jihad. "Osama is a great ulema and killing him will bring punishment from Allah to the country," said Ba'asyir through his secretary Hasyim. Ba'asyir also added that he did not believe that America is not at war with Islam as Obama conveyed during his speech. He said "It's a big lie that Obama is not against Islam. America started the crusade during Bush administration. "

Security Analyst Al Chaldar (SCTV) Al Chairdar, a security analyst frequently supportive of fundamentalism and critical of the US said the following: Radical movements will still use the same methods, such as suicide bombings because they do not have advanced weapon systems like the U.S. He also mentioned that Osama died as a martyr to show his respect of Osama.

We will send a more comprehensive read-out in our usual publications later today.

Paul

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Hodges, Thomas M
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 2:05 AM
To: Belmont, Paul T; Roskamp, Phillip W; Washington, Don Q; Sanders, Corina R
Cc: Schalow, Kathryn; Stout, Jennifer P; Kurzbauer, Ruth A; Daigle, J. Jeff; EAP-P-Office-DL
Subject: UBL Death - Media/Internet Reaction in Indonesia

Dear Jakarta Friends,

We're very eager to get a quick read from you on how Usama bin Laden's death is playing in the Indonesian media and in cyberspace. Any illustrative snippets you can get to us early and quickly on your Tuesday morning would be very valuable to us here. We assume you'll send in a fuller report through the usual media reaction channels (which we'll read with interest), but we could really use some quick, short stuff soon.

Best,

Thomas

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Thomas Hodges
Director, Office of Public Diplomacy (EAP/PD)
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
(202) 736-4598; HST, Rm. 5318
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