

## CASEFILE



Those found guilty included (from left) Gun Gun Rusman Gunawan, Air Setiawan, Abu Bakar Bashir, Bagus Budi Pranoto and Abu Jibril.

### ■ Air Setiawan

**Profile:** Ex-detainee linked to a plot to assassinate President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono  
**Arrest:** July 2004

**Charge:** Involvement in attempt to bomb Australian Embassy in Jakarta in 2004  
**Release:** 2004

**Current status:** Killed in raid in Bekasi last month

### ■ Bagus Budi Pranoto

**Profile:** Also known as Urwah, he is an ex-detainee who, after his release in 2007, linked up with Noordin Top again

**Arrest:** August 2004

**Charges:** Assisting Noordin, withholding information and sheltering terrorists

**Release:** 2007

**Current status:** At large, on Indonesia's most-wanted list

### ■ Abu Bakar Bashir

**Profile:** Former spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiah (JI)  
**Arrests:** March 2003 and October 2004

**Charges:** Involvement in church bombings and attacks on JW Marriott Hotel, and in Bali. Found guilty of conspiracy over the Bali attacks and jailed for 2½ years.

**Release:** July 2006 after remission. On Dec 21, 2006, conviction was overturned by Indonesia's Supreme Court.

**Current status:** Leading a new organisation called

Jemaah Anshorut Tauhid

### ■ Abu Jibril

**Profile:** Cleric who inspired detained terrorist Mas Selamat Kastari

**Arrest:** June 2001

**Charge:** Detained under Malaysia's ISA for maintaining ties with JI, as a member of Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia, another militant group

**Release:** 2004 (deported to Indonesia)

**Current status:** Cleric

### ■ Gun Gun Rusman Gunawan

**Profile:** Younger brother of Al-Qaeda member Hambali  
**Arrest:** September 2003

**Charges:** Withholding information, funding attack on JW Marriott Hotel in 2003 and visa violations

**Release:** October 2006  
**Current status:** Runs a business in Sumatra

### ■ Muhammad Rais

**Profile:** Fugitive Noordin's brother-in-law

**Arrest:** 2003

**Charge:** Helping Noordin to obtain, store and transport explosives ahead of the 2003 JW Marriott Hotel attack.

**Release:** 2007

**Current status:** Sells mobile phones in Riau

# Vital to keep tabs on freed militants

## Security experts call for better monitoring in Indonesia as ex-detainees go back to old ways

**Shefali Rekhi**  
Assistant Foreign Editor

Two cases in which freed terrorist suspects in Indonesia returned to their old ways recently have led to calls for a more effective monitoring system.

Since 2002, nearly 455 militant suspects have been detained, according to senior police officials. Of that number, 347 were convicted and most sent to prison.

So far, 192 have completed their sentences and have been released. But the lack of a proper monitoring system has made it difficult for officials to keep track of the freed detainees.

Air Setiawan was one of two militants killed when police raided a house in Bekasi, West Java, last month during a manhunt for terror mastermind Noordin Top in connection with the bombing of two hotels in Jakarta in July.

The 28-year-old was arrested in 2004, about two months before the Australian Embassy bombing, but freed the same year. He returned to his family after his release and it is unclear when or why he returned to militancy.

Jakarta-based security consultant Noor Huda Ismail believes one reason could be that Setiawan was unable to adjust to his new life.

In the other case, officials are looking for Bagus Budi Pranoto, also known as Urwah, who is suspected of helping Noordin mobilise recruits for his plans.

Urwah was arrested about two months before the Australian Embassy bombing for sheltering Noordin and sentenced to 3½ years' jail. He was released in 2007 and only now, details of what he has been up to since have emerged.

According to crime-watch firm World-Check – which provides detailed profiles of terrorists and those who finance them, money launderers, fraudsters and other high-risk individuals and entities – Urwah started a company that sold Al-Qaeda CDs with Indonesian subtitles. He appointed dealers in a few towns and a year later linked up with Noordin again.

The International Crisis Group (ICG), a non-profit think-tank with an office in Jakarta, noted in a report that Urwah could have drawn on radical groups to help Noordin and may still be doing so.

Urwah studied at a school connected to the Jemaah Islamiah terrorist network. He is a known associate of Ubeid, who is now a senior member of militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir's new outfit Jemaah Anshorut Tauhid, which is working to get Syariah laws enforced in the country.

Urwah also started a special forces squad of 12 to 15 people, though it is not clear what it was set up to do.

There is an important lesson to draw from this, said ICG's Jakarta head Sidney Jones.

"It is not so much that released prisoners are dangerous, but rather that one well-connected person joining Noordin's network can boost its size and scope," she said.

A check with those in touch with, or monitoring, some of the 192 freed militants showed that several have returned to their villages to resume farming. Oth-

ers have become small-time shopkeepers to make a living. A few have returned to their studies, and some clerics such as Abu Rusdan are said to be helping with police investigations.

Gun Gun Rusman Gunawan is the younger brother of Al-Qaeda and JI leader Hambali, who is in the US detention facility in Guantanamo in Cuba. Gun Gun now runs an electrical goods shop in Bengkulu, South Sumatra.

Muhammad Rais, who is Noordin's brother-in-law, sells mobile phones for a living at a shop in Riau, Sumatra.

Mr John Solomon, Global Head of Terrorism Research at World-Check, said that if activists were caught at an early stage in their indoctrination, societies with good reform programmes stand a better chance of integrating them into the community.

"Singapore is a model in this regard," he said. "For many other countries, however, the results have been less than salutary."

Indonesian police spokesman Nanan Soekarna conceded last month that programmes to rehabilitate and monitor former convicts were weak, raising fears that many could rejoin their networks.

Hardline clerics are also natural magnets for followers. The list includes Bashir and Abu Jibril, whose son Mohammad has been arrested in connection with the July hotel blasts.

Indonesian terrorism experts and security officials are now suggesting a re-evaluation of the way they treat terrorists who have served their time, and the setting up of an effective monitoring system for those who have been released.

[shefali@sph.com.sg](mailto:shefali@sph.com.sg)