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List-Terrorists

KMM, JEMAAH ISLAMIAH IN US GLOBAL TERRORISM LIST

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WASHINGTON, May 1 (Bernama) -- Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) and Jemaah Islamiah (JI) are in the list of 250 terrorist groups contained in the annual report on global terrorism released on Tuesday by the United States Government.

According to the US Government report, the KMM favoured the overthrow of the Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the creation of an Islamic State comprising Malaysia, Indonesia and the southern Philippines.

Malaysian authorities believe that smaller, more violent, extremist groups have split from the KMM, which was allegedly founded by Zainon Ismail in 1995. Zainon was a former mujahid in Afghanistan.

Malaysia is currently holding 48 KMM members under the Internal Security Act (ISA). Malaysian police assess the KMM to have 70 to 80 members.

The Kumpulan Militan Malaysia has ties with radical Indonesian Islamic groups and had sent its members to Ambon to fight against Indonesian Christians.

Jemaah Islamiah is a Southeast Asian terrorist network with links to Al-Qaeda, and believed to be financed by West Asian and South Asian contacts, including Al-Qaeda.

Like KMM, JI's goal is to create an Islamic state comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the southern Philippines and southern Thailand.

The JI was responsible for the Bali bombings on October 12, 2002.

The list of terrorists compiled by the US looks like a "who's who" of mainly violent Islamic extremist groups ranging from Abu Nidal organisation to Abu Sayyaf, Hamas, Hizbullah and Al Qaeda.

Other terrorist groups listed are Kamane Chai, Real IRA, the Japanese Red Army and Basque Fatherland and Liberty.

Under US law, it is illegal to provide funds or other material support to a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO).

Members of these FTO's can be denied visas to enter the US, while US financial institutions must block funds of designated FTO's and must report the blockage to the US Department of Treasury.

The report, Patterns of Global Terrorism 2002, notes the Malaysian Government's cooperation with international law enforcement in the global war on terrorism and its aggressive domestic counter terrorism measures.

In May, Malaysia signed a joint counter terrorism declaration of cooperation with the US, and in November the Malaysian Cabinet approved establishment of a Malaysian-based regional counter terrorism training centre in Kuala Lumpur.

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