

Isis posts video, photos of Malay-speaking children in recruitment drive

The Malaysian Insider

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A video and photos of Malay-speaking children training with weapons has been posted by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Isis) in a move by the terror cell to coax locals from Southeast Asia to join its cause.

The Straits Times reported today that the footage depicted at least 20 boys studying, praying, eating and undergoing defence and weapons lessons in territory held by Isis.

The video, titled Education in the Caliphate, follows warnings by experts that the terror cell is beefing up its external operations wing and courting further support in the region.

The Singaporean daily reported that it was posted over the weekend by the Malay-language media division of Isis, as a teaser for a longer piece to be posted later.

It was posted just after Turkey said last week it had detained 16 Indonesians trying to cross into Syria, and two weeks after Malaysian police identified two Malaysians in a beheading video.

The Star Online reported that Bukit Aman identified the two Malaysians in the video.

Special Branch Counter Terrorism Division principal assistant director Senior Asst Comm Datuk Ayub Khan was reported as saying that the two are 20-year-old Mohd Faris Anuar from Kedah and Muhamad Wanndy Muhamad Jedi, 26, who is from Malacca.

The report said that the duo are believed to be part of a new group of militants consisting of Malaysians and Indonesians – Majmu'ah al Arkhabiliy.

This group, it was reported, replaced the older wing – Katibah Nusantara Lid Daulah Islamiah – in Syria and Iraq.

Authorities in Muslim-majority Malaysia have expressed increasing alarm as scores of the country's citizens have either gone abroad to join the Isis jihad or been arrested for supporting the group or seeking to travel to Syria.

Bernamea reported today that Putrajaya was focused on monitoring Malaysians, whether within the country or overseas, who are prone to be influenced by the terror group.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Putrajaya was monitoring all direct or indirect threats from Isis.

In January, Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said 67 Malaysians were known to have gone to Syria and Iraq and that five had been killed fighting for the cause.

Malaysia was holding 120 people with suspected Isis links or sympathies, including both men and women, said Zahid, who is in charge of domestic security.

Malaysia has traditionally observed a moderate brand of Islam and kept a lid on extremists.

But Isis's ability to lure Malaysian Muslims, along with thousands of others worldwide, to join its jihad has rattled authorities and brought new attention on increasingly conservative Muslim views in Malaysia as its long-ruling government's tight grip has eased somewhat over the years. – March 17, 2015.

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