

**Malaysia good at hunting terrorist but poor at prosecuting them, says US report**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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Malaysia needs to improve its record of prosecuting terrorists as half of those arrested for involvement in terror networks were released without being charged, a United States government report has found.

The US Department of State's Country Reports on Terrorism 2014 released today commended the country's anti-terrorism legislation to curb the influence of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (Isis) which it said it was effective only in theory.

"However, as authorities were unable to file charges in roughly half of the terrorism-related arrests, a significant challenge is Malaysia's need to strengthen proactive cooperation between police and prosecutors from the outset of an investigation," it added.

The report said a significant challenge was for Malaysia to strengthen cooperation between police and prosecutors from the outset of an investigation.

The report said Malaysia was not considered a terrorist safe haven, but some violent extremists have been known to operate and hide in isolated littoral areas of the Sulu/Sulawesi Seas between Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, it said.

The report also noted terrorist incidents in the country last year, including the kidnapping of a Chinese tourist and a Filipino hotel employee by armed men from a diving resort off the coast of Semporna and the case of a manager of a fish farm kidnapped from an island near Lahad Datu.

Malaysia was also said to have a well-developed anti-money laundering system, and a capable Financial Intelligence and Enforcement Unit within Bank Negara Malaysia.

Nevertheless, the White Paper on Isis presented to Parliament in November by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak noted that Malaysia was at risk of becoming a terrorist finance hub, suggesting that existing laws should be strengthened.

In addition to robust law enforcement, Malaysia hosted several regional capacity building efforts to strengthen anti-Isis efforts in Southeast Asia.

In October, Malaysia's Islamic Development Authority (Jakim) issued a fatwa against Isis, labelling the organisation illegal under Islamic law and declared that followers that died fighting with Isis were not "martyrs."

Meanwhile, the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) was said to have conducted several programmes on youth and terrorism. – June 20, 2015.

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