

Impossible To Combat Extremism Alone – Indonesia
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- It is impossible for a country to fight violent radicalisation and extremism on its own, said Indonesia's National Counterterrorism Agency prevention director Brig Gen Dr Hamidin.

"The fight against radicalisation and extremism cannot be done only within our country because the terrorists might not be our local people.

"So we need help from neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines," he told reporters after the one-day Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism here Friday.

"Input-sharing among countries is vital," he said while speaking of Indonesia's experience of having suffered quite a number of terrorist attacks, including several in Bali, which were linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah network.

From 2000 until last year, Indonesia arrested 950 terrorists tied to JI nationwide, Hamidin added.

Holding similar views, Bukit Aman Special Branch Counter Terrorism assistant director SAC Datuk Ayub Khan Mydin Pitchay said police forces from ASEAN countries must come together to deal with the issue of radicalisation and violent extremism.

"The emphasis needed now is for the sharing of experiences among ASEAN countries," he said.

On Malaysia's rehabilitation programme, Ayub Khan said it "focuses on the process rather than punishment".

"We focus on how to rehabilitate detainees and ensure that they can return to society and no longer be involved in violent activities," he added.

The session chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also Home Minister, followed the four-day ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime.

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