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MARITIME SECURITY

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Human Trafficking in the Fishery Sector: The Benjina Case

As a country where two oceans meet, Indonesia has the obligation to enhance our maritime security not just to safeguard our sovereignty and maritime resources, but also to (contribute to the protection of global) shipping routes and maritime security.

Joko Widodo,
President of the Republic of Indonesia, 9th East Asia Summit, Naypyidaw, Myanmar, 13 November 2014



IOM - Gol Coordination Meeting in Tual, 8 April 2015

The government's quick action in Benjina signaled Indonesia's strong commitment to completely eradicate human trafficking in the country, especially in the fishing industry.

The plight of stranded foreign fishermen in the town of Benjina, Maluku, was first highlighted by an article published by the Associated Press investigating the link between human trafficking and the global fishing industry in March 2015. The story, where AP referred to the fishermen as "slaves", immediately gained traction in the local media, and, soon after, the attention of Indonesian government as well as the global community.

The fishermen, who came from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, claimed to have experienced brutal working conditions, including: forced confinement, forced labor, non-payment of salaries, excessive working hours, and psychological and physical abuse amounting to torture. Many were abandoned and unable to return to their

home countries. Some had been living in Benjina for over 10 years and many have thought never to see their homes again.

The government lost no time in immediately dispatching a task force team to carry out investigation and rescue efforts. In early April 2015, the government succeeded in evacuating more than 300 stranded fishermen from Benjina. Their case is now being processed and they will soon be returned to their home countries.

"One of the reasons I prioritize the eradication of illegal fishing is not only because we are losing trillions of rupiah due to illegal fishing, but also because illegal fishing is often a vehicle for other crimes, such as people smuggling, drugs smuggling, and slavery," said the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Susi Pudjiastuti.

Upon the government's request, IOM has given support and assistance, through an IOM Indonesia team led by the Deputy Chief of Mission Steve Hamilton, to support the government in victim identification, provision of humanitarian support, facilitating consular services, and repatriation of the fishermen back to their home countries.

"For the first time in possibly several years, their feet are touching dry land and there is a real possibility for them to go home, once we and the authorities locate and process them," said Hamilton.



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Focus-Group Discussion on Maritime Security Issues in Indonesia, 23-24 April, 2015, Jakarta



Sjarief Widjaja, General Secretary of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries speaks at the opening of the FGD

The Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fishery organized a two day focus group discussion on Maritime Security, with the support from IOM, on 23 and 24 April 2015, in Jakarta. The FGD was co-convened by the the University of Indonesia, the Indonesian National Defence University and Coventry University, a UK- based academic institution. The event also featured a keynote speech by the Dr. Desi Albert Mamahit, M.Sc., the Acting Chief of Bakamla (the Indonesian Coast Guard) and was attended by more than 100 participants from wide-ranging sectors, including the Indonesian Ship Owners Association, the Indonesian Immigration, the Marine Police, and many more. The event concluded with a table top exercise facilitated by well-known experts: Dr. Melda Kamil Ariadno and Professor Adrianus Meliala from the University of Indonesia, and Dr. Abdul Rivai Ras from the Indonesian National Defense university. The table-top exercise produced a number of key recommendations that will be shared with key government institutions.

In his opening remark, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Sjarief Widjaja, said that fighting transnational crime, including people smuggling and human trafficking, is key to Indonesia's maritime security and integral to the government's design to establish Indonesia as a Global Maritime Axis. The new Indonesian president has time and again stated his ambition to turn Indonesia into a true maritime country. "As a country composed of 17,000 [sic] islands, Indonesians must see themselves as a nation whose identity, prosperity, and future are bound with the sea," President Joko Widodo said shortly after his election last year. Indonesia is the largest archipelagic nation in the world, and its sea presents huge economic opportunities. Widjaja predicts that, if properly managed, the economic potential of the Indonesia sea will yield upwards of US\$ 660 billion of income annually, including sectors

such as fishery, biopharmaceutical, tourism, offshore mining, and sea transportation.

However, without properly addressing the issue of transnational organized crime, this vision may not come to fruition. Economic losses from illegal fishing, for example, is predicted at around US\$ 20 billion annually. Illegal fishing is also often linked to other crimes, such as human trafficking. Piracy and sea robbery are also a concern, with annual losses caused by these crimes predicted to be in the billions of dollars.

Maritime Security and IOM

IOM is increasingly and consistently playing a critical role in assisting States to address complex migration management challenges globally. IOM Indonesia works closely with the government principally in the areas of border and migration management assessments, curbing transnational organized crime, and migrant care management. IOM Indonesia's endeavors to combat transnational organized crime were first initiated in 2000, and have since expanded significantly. With funding support from various donors such as Australia and Canada, a number of projects have been implemented to support the Government of Indonesia's continuing efforts in the area of migration management, with all activities designed to directly support the Government's policies and priorities.

"We have gone through a process of reconsidering everything we are doing relating to people smuggling and human trafficking within the illegal fisheries for example, reorienting ourselves as an organization so we are well placed to assist the government's efforts within the broader context of maritime security," said IOM Indonesia Chief of Mission Mark Getchell.

14-Point Recommendations

Legal Aspects of Indonesian Maritime Security <i>Facilitator: Melda Kamil Ariadno, PhD (UI)</i>	Non-Legal Aspects of Indonesian Maritime Security <i>Facilitator: Col (Navy) Dr. Abdul Rivai Ras (UNHAN)</i>	Effective Prevention & Enforcement Measures <i>Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Adrianus Meliala (UI)</i>
1. Legal and para-legal education for Indonesian fishermen and shipping crew.	5. Consideration be given to the economic conditions of local fishermen - in maritime (fishery) issue interventions.	10. Continued capacity building of all law enforcement agency personnel: (a) transnational organized crime; (b) processes of inquiry and investigation.
2. Enactment of laws or enforcement of laws that encourage proportionate and adequate sanctions, vis-à-vis, fishery crimes & violations.	6. Encourage community participation through community-level awareness-raising events, pertinent to fisheries and overall maritime/human security issues.	11. Improve information & technology systems among major stakeholders and players, towards integrated information sharing.
3. Fishery permits and licensing processes should consider coherence with both national and international laws.	7. Provision of incentives for government personnel posted in remote coastal areas.	12. A single agency should be defined that has full overall responsibility in managing maritime security issues.
4. Enhanced coordination and common understanding and perception (among relevant agencies: KKP, MOFA, Bakamla, among others) on synchronicity of fishery laws and implementation, pertinent to capture foreign vessels and crew.	8. More efficient policies and processes pertinent to: (a) publication of fishery permits; (b) levy on businesses; and (c) handling of irregular migrants.	13. Provision of outreach and education activities to local communities on maritime and human security issues.
	9. Enhance capacities to monitor and supervise areas and ports prone to transnational organized crime activities, by increasing marine and aerial patrol resources, as well as, supervision of ports.	14. Enhanced intra-regional and international coordination on maritime security affairs and other relevant attendant issues.



IOM and the Indonesian Coast Guard

IOM carried out its first ever visit to the office of Bakamla (the Indonesian Coast Guard), on 15 April 2015. In the meeting IOM Indonesia's Deputy Chief of Mission, Steve Hamilton, expressed IOM's desire to establish closer ties with the institution in particular in the capacity-building of Bakamla officers, in view of the body's strategic importance in the fight against maritime-borne transnational organized crimes such as people smuggling and human trafficking. Hamilton was warmly received by Dr. Desi Albert Mamahit, M.Sc., who welcomed the idea of a potential partnership between the two institutions, noting that many of Bakamla's duties and functions intersect with IOM's mandates.



Since his election in 2014, President Joko Widodo has been touting his vision to turn Indonesia into a prosperous country and a major regional power with a strong maritime identity, by taking advantage of Indonesia's geostrategic position, its unique reality as the largest archipelago nation on the planet, and its vast and resource-rich seas.

Regional observers have generally welcomed Widodo's vision – dubbed as the Global Maritime Axis – and noting that a stronger Indonesia can be beneficial to the region as a whole. On the other side of the coin, however, the rise can potentially upset the existing regional security arrangement if not properly managed.

"We appreciate all of IOM's efforts in ensuring humane and orderly migration that can benefit migrants and society. Bakamla is also committed to the exact same principles, thus I foresee the possibility of cooperation between Bakamla and IOM," said Mamahit

Bakamla's Role In Indonesia Maritime Security

The newly established Bakamla is expected to play a vital role in the peaceful rise of Indonesia as a major maritime power in Asia, according to the Acting Chief of Bakamla, Dr. Desi Albert Mamahit, M.Sc.

The establishment of Bakamla was declared by President Joko Widodo in December 2014. The body is mandated to carry out security and safety patrols in the Indonesian territorial waters and jurisdiction, with seven functions, including to formulate national policy on maritime security and safety, implement early warning system, safeguard, monitor and prevent criminal activities on Indonesian waters, and assist search and rescue efforts.

"We do not want to create a security dilemma, in which the more we build our maritime power, the more our neighbors feel threatened by us, causing them also to build their power, which in turn will cause us to feel threatened. Once started, the cycle will go on," said Mamahit on Thursday, 23 April 2014, during his keynote speech to IOM-supported FGD on Maritime Security. "We want our rise to give positive contribution to the common security of the region, and even the world."

"Bakamla is a civilian institution with the task to maintain security and safety of Indonesian waters," continued Mamahit.

Bakamla's civilian status is important as a confidence-building measure to convince regional neighbors that Indonesia is more focused in ensuring security and safety within its own borders, rather than to project its power outward.

"We need to remember that Indonesia is rising together with other Asian countries, and that Indonesia wants to contribute to a common security and prosperity of Asia through our status as a global maritime axis," concluded Mamahit.



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The batik fabric design used in the IOM Indonesia newsletter banner is courtesy of Batik Kebon Indah – an IOM livelihood beneficiary under the Java Reconstruction Fund Programme in 2008-2011. Kebon was among 4,300 micro and small enterprises (MSE) in the earthquake-affected provinces of Yogyakarta and Central Java, assisted by IOM Indonesia. The Indonesian Batik is designated by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Beyond supporting the revitalization of local economic development in areas of high migration pressure at post-disaster, IOM Indonesia has also contributed to the preservation of Indonesia's greatest cultural heritage.