

MILITANT IDEOLOGIES & RADICALISM IN MALAYSIA

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MILITANT IDEOLOGIES

- ▣ Militant- comes from 15th Century Latin “*militare*” wh means “to serve as a soldier”
- ▣ Contemporary meaning: not usually refers to a registered soldier; can be anyone who subscribes to the idea of using vigorous, sometime extreme, activity to achieve an objective, usually political.
- ▣ Physical violence: militant activist thus, is more confrontational & aggressive but may not include physical violence, armed combat, terrorism etc.

- ▣ Some militant group merely published newspaper or bulletins , flyers, posters,stickers, which are provocative and causing controversies on e.g labour / union issues; animal rights,green issues etc

Ideology: is a system of ideas or ideals or a set of beliefs which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy

- ▣ Thus, Militant Ideology refers to a group of individuals who subscribes to vigorous and confrontational approach and sometime violence to achieve a certain cause or belief

SPAN OF MILITANCY

- ▣ It occurs across political, racial, religious , separatists, abortion opponents and proponents and environmentalist
- ▣ Religious extremist may exist amongst Christians, Muslims, Jewish or Others
- ▣ E.g ; left-wing, right -wing and advocacy group militant wh includes militant reformers, militant feminist, militant animal rights advocate
- ▣ So, e.g the term Militant Islam: refers to Violent & Aggressive political activity by Islamic individuals,groups, movements, governments etc

MILITANT = TERRORIST

- ▣ The term Militant is actually an euphemism for Terrorist
- ▣ The media uses the term militant groups or radical militants for terrorist organisations in references to militant movements using terrorist tactics viz.a viz torture/armed / lethal weapons / explosives etc

LEGAL INFERENCES

- ▣ Protocol 1, Geneva Conventions, 1977 amendment: “armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination, alien(foreign) occupation or racist regimes-international conflicts. This gives lawful combatant status and not terrorist.
- * Struggle of peoples for national liberation/
Resisting a foreign military occupation is not act of terrorism because their acts of political violence against military targets of foreign occupier do not violate international law.
- ▣ UNGA Resolution on terrorism (42/159, 7 th December 1987)

RADICALISM

- ▣ Means: the holding or following of principles advocating political, economy or social reforms
- ▣ It's the beginning of behaviour that leans towards extremism and terrorism
- ▣ Politically, radicalism denotes political principles focused on altering social structures through revolutionary means and changing values systems in fundamental ways
- ▣ Thus, radicalism may perpetuate acts of violence and extremism
- ▣ Feeling of being left out, marginalised, poverty, weak and helplessness, abused those in power led to revolutionary option motivated by radicalism

▣ MILITANT IDEOLOGY +
RADICALISM=
DISASTROUS

DEFINING TERRORISM IN MALAYSIA

- ▣ No single universally-accepted definition of terrorism
- ▣ Historically, terrorism incidence in Northern Ireland, Middle East and South East Asia indicate that terrorism is perpetrated by a group of aggrieved people that see violence as the only mean of achieving their political goals/power
- ▣ Some militant groups who carried out acts of terror try to legitimise their acts by claiming as act of liberation or freedom fighters

DEFINITION OF TERRORIST IN MALAYSIA

- ▣ INTERNAL SECURITY ACT 1960 (ACT 82) (REPEALED) –provided a clear definition of terrorist in Malaysia, that any person who:
 - ▣ By the use of firearm, explosive or ammunition acts in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or to the maintenance of public order or incites to violence or counsels disobedience to the law or to any lawful order
 - ▣ Carries or has in his possession or under his control any firearm, ammunition or explosive without lawful authority therefore
 - ▣ Demands,collects or receives any supplies for the use of any person who intends or is about to act, or has recently acted, in a manner prejudicial to public safety or the maintenance of public order

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, MALAYSIA

- ▣ Top policy-making body with regard to national security defined terrorism:
- ▣ Unlawful use of threat or the use of force or terror or any attack by person, group or state regardless of objective or justification aim at other state, its citizens or properties and its vital services with the intention of creating fear, intimidation and thus forcing government or organisation to follow their impressed will including those act in support directly or indirectly. (Directive No.18, issued by the NSC)

SECURITY OFFENCES (SPECIAL MEASURES) ACT 2012(Act 747)

- ▣ S.3 “Security Offences” means the offences provided in First Schedule (Penal Code [Act 547])
- ▣ i) Chapter VI, (Ss.121-130A; Offences Against the State) &
- ▣ ii) Chapter VIA (SS.130B-140B; Offences Relating to Terrorism)
- ▣ “terrorist act” means an act or threats of action within and beyond Malaysia falls under S.130B(3) (a)-(j)

HISTORY OF MILITANCY IN MALAYSIA

- ▣ Birth of Malayan Communist Party(MCP) in 1930
- ▣ This led to formation of Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army(MPAJA)-a militia group conducting guerilla warfare against Japanese forces until its surrender in 1945.
- ▣ MPAJA went out of hiding from the jungle and began reprisal campaign against Japanese collaborators, the police regiment and civilians. This militant group became first known terrorist against the general population then
- ▣ In 1945, interim British Military Administration(BMA) headed by Lord Mountbatten urged MPAJA to surrender weapons/ arms etc.

1948-1960 Malayan emergency- hundreds of MCP party members arrested and many fled into jungle forming malayan Peoples anti-British Army(MPABA) later renamed Malayan Peoples Liberation Army(MPLA) conducted campaign of terror against civilian population including intimidation, murder and coercion with a view of establishing a new self government.

Independence of Malaysia in 1957; state of Emergency lifted in 1960;

But MCP , though dwindled in numbers, still continues with skirmishes, bombings and assassination on border patrol troop along Northern Peninsula Malaysia then . Their activities ended by early1990s.