IDEOLOGY AND TERRORIST'S MODUS OPERANDI: CASE STUDY ON PATTANI & MINDANAO

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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PENGAKUAN

Saya akui karya ini adalah hasil kerja saya sendiri kecuali nukilan dan ringkasan yang tiap-tiap satunya telah saya jelaskan sumbernya.

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ABSTRACT

Terrorists are rarely mindless or indiscriminate in their attacks, although they may appear to be so to observers who have not examined their ideological beliefs. This study discusses and analyzes the nexus between the ideology of terrorist groups and their modus operandi (i.e. strategies, tactics and targets selection) with reference to two terrorist movements in Southeast Asia, namely the nationalism-separatism terrorists groups in the Southern Thailand province of Pattani and separatist-religious extremist terrorism rooted in Southern Philippines of Mindanao. Based on the discussions, it can be said that ideology provides terrorist groups with an initial motive for action and supplies a prism through which they view events and the actions of other people and of their own. This means ideologically based moral framework serves to define the causes, the enemies as well as the means, tactics and timing of the political violence itself. The terrorists' ideological differences lead to differences in the modus operandi of terrorist groups, even between groups which have superficially similar but distinct ideologies. A review of the terrorist's ideology, while not sufficient to explain why all terrorists do what they do or what they all believe, is able to offer insights into the framework of logic by which terrorist groups conduct their modus operandi and justify their actions.
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