

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA SEOUL

Press Release

Indonesian national detained on alleged involvement in activities of Islamic State (IS), a banned organization

- 1. The Embassy of Indonesia in Seoul has received information that an Indonesian national has been detained by South Korea police for investigation over possible links to IS, a banned organization. Based on the information from the Korean immigration, the suspect's ID indicates Abdullah Hasyim but he entered South Korea under the name of Carsim. The Police in coordination with the Embassy of Indonesia in Seoul are still in the process of verifying the real identity of this person, who is 32 years old, and has been in South Korea since 2007. He lives in South Chungcheong Province (150 km from Seoul) and currently an illegal immigrant. To date, he has never contacted the Embassy of Indonesia to report or extend his travel documents.
- 2. About two (2) months ago, South Korean Immigration has been in coordination with the Embassy of Indonesia regarding an Indonesian national in South Korea suspected of supporting a radical group with his facebook showing pictures, articles and flag of Al-Nusra Front, a Syrian affiliate of Al-Qaeda. The South Korean security authorities have subsequently tracked his activities to ensure that they would not put at risk the national security of South Korea. The security forces at the same time also tracked his whereabouts for investigation and possible deportation back to Indonesia. To date, he was arrested on charges of violating the South Korea Immigration Law and alleged support to a banned organization. At the time of his detention, the police found a knife, a mock of M16 riffle, and certain books on Islamic Fundamentalism.
- Currently, the Police are still investigating on whether the suspect has accomplices who also sympathize with and support terrorism and therefore pose a risk to national security in South Korea.

- 4. The Embassy of Indonesia in Seoul regretted the fact that there is an Indonesian national who engaged in activities that could potentially harm the image of Indonesia in South Korea, but the Embassy will still provide an assistance to the said person to ensure that his legal rights are met. The Embassy will continue to enhance cooperation with various Indonesian community organizations in Korea to support efforts for Indonesian nationals in South Korea to always abide the existing law and order.
- 5. To reduce the number of Indonesian overstayers, the Embassy of Indonesia in Seoul and Indonesian Central Government have in place various policies, program and incentives to motivate them to return voluntarily to Indonesia, including various departure facilitation assistance and organization of training activities to prepare their return to Indonesia. Several Indonesian community organizations in South Korea have also assisted in providing understanding on the importance of the Indonesian overstayers to return to their homeland.
- 6. Indonesia society is pluralistic and multicultural, and accordingly it is against any form of extremism. In response to the Paris terror attacks, President Jokowi expressed his most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and asserted that terrorism cannot under any circumstances be tolerated.
- 7. Also in regards to the terrorist attacks in Paris, Vice President Jusuf Kalla has expressed that Indonesia condemns all acts of terrorism. In fact, Indonesia had experienced such acts of terror several years ago which took many lives. As a country with moderate and tolerant Muslims as the majority of its citizens, Indonesia will continue to fight and prevent the spread of radicalism.