

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

As one of Asian tigers, Singapore is known by its major development. Infrastructure continues to develop. Fineness, amenities and luxuries are given by Singapore to attract foreign tourists to come to this country and investors to invest in the region. Thus, the trust that has been given to Singapore requires this country to maintain its safety. Besides that, Singapore also has its citizen as their important possession that also needs to be served and secured. Thus, security and stability are a prime concern for Singapore to make the country continues a safe place for all.

Especially within the new security environment, all country in the region including Singapore deals with a complex security threat that is very different especially issue of terrorism. The development of this global threat has been significantly changed within their quantity and quality. The impact could be harmful for a wide area, such as the citizen itself, the politics, social and economic demension. Since security is a vital tool for the country, Singapore, therefore, is very active in joining regional and multilateral cooperation to fight terrorism. However, in fighting against terrorism, Singapore is not fully alone struggling with the threats. The country understands that its own security is its ultimate responsibility, although an absolute secure country is not possible, Singapore will keep trying to maintain the country safe, by intensifying the security measures, improving the government coordination and building up a social resilience (National Security Coordination Secretariat Singapore, 2006).

Singapore understands that threats are everywhere, and it might be attacked whenever possible. Thus the goal is to minimize the possibility by setting up possible defences to fight against the terror. So it does not have a prominent impact to its society and other vital affairs. However, in Singapore, the struggle to save the country is a shared responsibility. Public involvement is also accounted as an important role in fighting the threats. Besides setting up security measures, the country also introduces the “Total Defence” program which involves public engagement. Thus, each actor within the country is ensured to understand that this terrorism is due to a false understanding and not beneficial activities to be followed. Furthermore, the government informs that these phenomena could also destruct the harmony within the society that has been built by both government and the citizen itself over the years.

However, Singapore also deals with certain dilemmas regarding its effort to maintain the security. There have been two types of approaches introduced by some scholars that are repressive and persuasive measures. Both of them have their own plus and their minus. However, a democratic country like Singapore assumes it would be better to use persuasive measures regarding its legitimacy value. Persuasive measures are predicted to give more advantages in democratic countries rather than repressive measures. As what happens in some democratic countries, for instance in Germany, Italy and Northern Ireland, the use of repressive counterterrorism increases the public support to the terrorist groups. Thus, it is not effective for a country like Singapore to follow their steps, however, the country implements the opposite decision. They prefer to choose repressive measures as

its counterterrorism tool rather than persuasive measures. By introducing The Internal Security Act as its anti-terrorism legislation, this decision provokes many rejection, for example opposition party and Human Right defender since The Internal Security Act allows the government to detain a person without trial. It provokes a lot of arguments in which ISA could give a power to the government to violate the prominent features for political purposes like the use of Malaysia Internal Security Act that has been abolished. Additionally, the power given by ISA is also considered to violate the rights of suspects before and after the trial. It is feared, within the trial process of the suspected, he could get a physical harassment.

Nevertheless, above all the worries, Singapore could ensure that the use of its Internal Security Act will work properly. Singapore could provide evidence to proof their statement. As supported by the House of Lord (per Lord Diplock) of the United Kingdom, since the first time being used, there is no evidence to prove that the Internal Security Act of Singapore is misused for political purposes (NewsAsia, 2012). The process works well under an organized legal framework. The decision taken must fit the threats and the rights of suspects will also be respected. Since the threats of terrorism need a strong legislation that could work promptly and decisively, Singapore considers ISA could work the same way, immediately and firmly. Although, ISA could provoke negative impacts like what have been stated by opposition party and Human Right defender. Singapore could ensure that they will control the negative impacts that are possible to happen. Therefore, Singapore considers ISA still relevant. Although there is an open

possibility to change the law, the government ensures that Singapore will need a legislation that works like ISA. It could prevent the threats before it happens. Thus, the use of Internal Security Act is a perfect calculation to be taken as anti-terrorism legislation that considered as an effective way to eradicate the terrorism activities in the region.