

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY



In Obscura

Vincent M. Nasti, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Consultant
In Obscura, LLC | Threat Intelligence | Security Countermeasures | Investigations
<https://inobscura.org/>

(TLP-C) INTELLIGENCE NOTE – BRIEF: THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE EAST ASIA PROVINCE (ANALYSIS) 27 MAR 2026

CHURCH THREAT LEVEL – *IMMINENT*

CAVEAT: THIS INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT RELIES ON OPEN-SOURCE MEDIA OR GOVERNMENT RELEASED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ARE INCLUDED FOR CLIENTS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTIONS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

DATE OF ACQUISITION: 26 MAR 26

PUBLISHED: 26 MAR 2026

COLLECTION PERIOD: 26 MAR 2026

INFORMATION CUTOFF: 27 MAR 2026

DISSEMINATION CONTROL: TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL-CLEAR (TLP-C)

PREPARED BY: V.M. NASTI

POINT OF CONTACT: V.M. NASTI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Islamic war operations (terror) in the Philippines has been active well before the attacks on the US and its interests before and after our 9/11/2001. Days before 9/11 these groups beheaded US missionaries. The following short threat report analysis is provided for situational awareness and intercessory prayer by clergy and congregations. Consistent with the In Obscura mission and vision and repeated threat and operational reports and analysis, this one focuses on the threat environment of Christian Missionaries.

This also draws attention to the threat and security aspects of congregations now planning for summer foreign travel visits to deployed missionaries, and at the same time, deployed missionaries' travel in and out of their deployed locations. The New Testament describes the very same intelligence, threats, and persecutions in the mission field.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

We must be wise as serpents, yet innocent as doves. I once commented to a Pastor that to me this meant not getting caught. By this I However, my interpretation was instinctive to my profession and as a Watchman. The Watchmen MUST know everything about Serpents to adequately track and predict and then neutralize them before they strike. That innocent part to me is that God will ensure His righteousness upon Watchmen.

“...Militant Wire is a media company focused on providing independent analysis of militant activity and armed conflict around the world. Our global network of researchers produces expert insight on issues of political street violence, terrorism, insurgency, organized crime, irregular warfare, and more...”



Militant Wire Analysis

Brief: The Current Status of the Islamic State East Asia Province

Uday Mar 26, 2026

<https://www.militantwire.com/p/brief-the-current-status-of-the-islamic>

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

After the Islamic State-inspired [attack](#) at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, on December 14, 2025, the deadliest terror attack in the country, there was talk about the potential resurgence of the Islamic State Southeast Asia Province (ISEAP).

The links between ISEAP and the attack have been drawn from the fact that the two perpetrators [visited the Philippines](#) a month before conducting the operation.

The Philippines was a hot spot for ISEAP in the mid-to-late 2010s; it was even the location where over 1,000 pro-Islamic State fighters attempted to take over the city of Marawi in the country's south for five months. This was an attempt to establish a wilayah, or province, in Southeast Asia in 2017.

The siege was unsuccessful, and Marawi was retaken by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Remnants of pro-IS groups are still active in the Philippines, though they barely have a foothold now. This has led to perceptions that the Sydney attack perpetrators potentially linked up with some of these pro-IS remnants for training or logistical support before their attack.

Australian police [are now stating](#) that the Sydney perpetrators acted on their own volition and were not part of a wider network; however, they are still investigating why they were in the Philippines, in a region previously occupied by IS fighters and presumably with remnants and sympathizers still present.

ISEAP in the Philippines Today

The ISEAP, as a cohesive organization, is essentially [defunct](#) in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia, where it had varying degrees of presence and activities. Online chatter by pro-IS supporters continues to suggest that the ISEAP and the smaller groups forming it are present and active, yet that is not true. Security forces in all the aforementioned countries have significantly cracked down on these groups and networks to the extent that the earlier regional coordination and cooperation between pro-IS groups is essentially zero.

Referring specifically to the Philippines, where the IS attempted to form a province following calls from IS-Central in Syria and Iraq, the threat of pro-IS groups has been relegated back to being lower than the threat from the communist New People's Army

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

(which is the longest-running insurgency in the world, currently). Even the communist threat has been diminished significantly in the Philippines, highlighting how the pro-IS remnants there are essentially unable to organize under the IS banner. There is no IS resurgence in the Philippines; the activity levels of anti-government Islamist groups are at their lowest in decades, and it is a far cry from IS-affiliated groups in West Africa, for example.

In the Philippines, there were three major IS groups (with various factions): the Maute Group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). The ISEAP emir would often be picked from one of these groups following the killing of the preceding emir. Today, all of these groups fall under the banner of Dawlah Islamiyah, or the Islamic State. Taking a closer look, however, indicates how far these groups have deteriorated in capabilities.

The ASG has essentially been decimated after over two decades of terror and historical ties to Al-Qaeda and major terror groups in Indonesia, such as the Jemaah Islamiyah and Jamaat Ansharut Daulah. The ASG was notorious for kidnapping and operating in the Sulu archipelago. There has been no kidnapping since January 2020, and as of last year, the ASG splinter groups have also seemed to have faded away. The Maute Group, which largely led and funded the Marawi siege, is also a sliver of what it once was, and possibly standing on its last legs. BIFF is in a similar position; last year, a BIFF sub-leader, his brother, and his son were killed in a clash with the AFP.

While a large part of the fading presence of IS groups in the Philippines is due to the AFP's actions, it also comes from the government's wider movement to integrate disenfranchised Muslim Moro communities who live in Mindanao and were part of groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

At one point, MILF was a major internal security threat in the Philippines, but following a peace agreement and normalization, the MILF and the AFP have worked together to counter the more radical Islamist pro-IS groups that fall under Dawlah Islamiyah. As such, recent characterizations of the Philippines and Mindanao, especially as a terror hot-spot, are false and disingenuous; the ISEAP is defunct, and the groups that comprised it are struggling to survive.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY


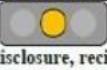


=====

IN OBSCURA HAS ADOPTED THE OSINT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS ‘TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL’ RELEASE CAVEATS. THESE REGULATE IN OBSCURA REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC RELEASE TO PROTECT CLIENTS AND IN OBSCURA SOURCES, METHODS, AND TECHNIQUES. IN OBSCURA RELEASE PROHIBITION MARKINGS ALSO APPLY. NONE ARE RELEASABLE TO NEWS MEDIA OR JOURNALISTS WITHOUT WRITTEN REQUEST AND PERMISSION.

=====

REQUEST WRITTEN PERMISSION, EMAIL, PRIOR TO DISSEMINATING ANY IN-OBSCURA PRODUCTS OR INFORMATION. TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION FOLLOW...

Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
<p style="text-align: center;">TLP:RED</p>  <p>For the eyes and ears of individual recipients only, no further disclosure.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon without significant risk for the privacy, reputation, or operations of the organizations involved.</p>	<p>Recipients may therefore not share TLP:RED information with anyone else. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TLP:AMBER</p>  <p>Limited disclosure, recipients can only spread this on a need-to-know basis within their organization and its clients. Note that TLP:AMBER+STRICT restricts sharing to the organization only.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, yet carries risk to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.</p>	<p>Recipients may share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm. Note: if the source wants to restrict sharing to the organization only, they must specify TLP:AMBER+STRICT.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TLP: GREEN</p>  <p>Limited disclosure, recipients can spread this within their community.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful to increase awareness within their wider community.</p>	<p>Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their community, but not via publicly accessible channels. TLP:GREEN information may not be shared outside of the community. Note: when “community” is not defined, assume the cybersecurity/defense community.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TLP: CLEAR</p>  <p>Recipients can spread this to the world, there is no limit on disclosure.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.</p>	<p>Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:CLEAR information may be shared without restriction.</p>

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY