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A military source told the *Report* that such weapons and ammunitions are only used by special forces such as the police's Mobile Brigade paramilitary forces and the anti-terror unit, Detachment 88.

According to the source, hundreds of similarly mutilated weapons were trafficked into Maluku and Poso from East Timor in early 2000 where the TNI had used them throughout their 23-year occupation of East Timor. The East Timorese voted for independence at the end of 1999 and the sectarian conflicts in Poso and Ambon turned particularly bloody around 2000.

"Locals were trained to assemble the weapons," the source said, without naming the would-be trainers. "It would not surprise me if the sacks of weapons [found recently in Jakarta] were planned to be dispatched to several conflict-ridden areas, such as Poso or Ambon or even Aceh aboard a plane from Soekarno-Hatta airport."

Meanwhile, two low explosive bombs have again rocked the Central Sulawesi town of Poso on Sept. 6 and Sept. 9, with each incident claiming one life. Also on Sept. 9, in Makassar, West Sulawesi, Detachment 88 raided a house and found a pile of explosive materials, including gun powder and dozens of home-made weapons. The owner of the house was arrested and an investigation is underway.

Many fear that the bomb blasts may provoke fresh violence, especially given the ongoing debate over the culpability of the Poso Three, three Christians accused of masterminding one phase of the sectarian conflict in 2001.

Several investigations into the issue have identified a number of groups which are believed to have played a leading role in the 2001 violence. One, known as *Tim Bunga* (Flower Team), is said to have senior and active intelligence officers as members. *Tim Bunga* is thought to have agitated radical Muslims in Poso by providing paramilitary training at several hideouts.

The sacking of Central Sulawesi Police chief Brig. Gen. Oegroseno early in September is believed to be connected with his belief in the role of *Tim Bunga* in the violence.

While the latest finding of another arms stash in Jakarta and the recent bombings in Sulawesi can still be treated as two separate cases, the evidence seems to be increasingly pointing to the involvement of rogue members of the TNI in that region's tragic violence. If Indonesia is to avoid another round of sectarian killings surrounding the sensitive case of the Poso Three, the government must act firmly and decisively to break the link between the terror attacks and the illegal trade of TNI arms.

Drowning in garbage

Nobody who lives in Jakarta can fail to recognise the problems this city has in dealing with its garbage. The September 8 landslide that killed three people at Jakarta's biggest garbage dump has again highlighted the issue. This most recent incident is simply the latest in a long line of garbage-related stories

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nationwide, ranging from the toppling of Surabaya's mayor over his inability to solve that city's waste management problems to the scenes earlier this year in Bandung of garbage piled along the roadside for months.

The waste disposal problems that Indonesia's largest cities face are in many ways symptomatic of the rapid urbanisation which plagues many developing countries. In Indonesian cities, household garbage is disposed of in three main ways: it is either taken to a garbage dump through a service funded by the local government and supplemented by residents' contributions, householders burn it themselves on site, or it is thrown into the nearest river. Official government statistics from 2000 for 384 cities nationwide indicate that only 4.2 percent of garbage finds its way to official dumps, 37.6 percent is burnt, 4.9 percent is thrown into a river, while 53.3 percent is not taken care of at all.

While the proportion collected by local governments is likely higher in cities like Jakarta where empty land to dump garbage is scarce, UN data from 2001 still shows that 37 percent of homes in Jakarta have no garbage collection at all.

In addition to the patchy collection process, one of the most contentious stages of the waste disposal process is the use of open dumps in residential areas. This practice has caused numerous and sometimes violent protests in some of the biggest cities, as residents living nearby refuse the opening of new dumps or demand the closure of existing ones. Skin and respiratory problems, the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera, inadequately treated waste which leaks into local sources of groundwater and landslides that occasionally engulf surrounding houses, killing hundreds of people at a time, are the main reasons residents protest so vociferously.

Under-funding, mismanagement and a lack of regulatory clarity are the main causes of the problems. For example, the site of the most recent landslide was supposed to function as a sanitary landfill, where layers of garbage are enclosed on top of one another. However, it has recently emerged that the company managing the site, which is half owned by the Jakarta administration and half owned by the Bekasi administration, had been using it as an open dump, setting the scene for the September 8 disaster.

There is no dedicated law to the disposal of garbage, which at the moment is only vaguely regulated under a 1997 law on the environment, and is inconsistently implemented at the local government level. But a new law specifically designed to manage waste disposal is now being drafted, and it seems the government is preparing to hasten its progress so it will reach the DPR by year's end. Its focus on reducing and recycling waste certainly seems to be a step in the right direction, with other stipulations to outlaw the provision of plastic bags at supermarkets and the introduction of a scheme known as extended producer responsibility (EPR), which obliges companies to take responsibility for the packaging from their products after they have been used. Implementation will be through a punishment and reward system where companies who participate will get easier access to bank credits through Bank Indonesia.

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Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso has in recent days suggested another way of dealing with the garbage crisis: privatisation. Such a knee-jerk reaction to chronic under-funding of public services, however, is questionable. Private companies may prove more efficient in many ways, and in some of Jakarta's more elite neighbourhoods private garbage collection is already in place, as those people can afford to pay for it.

But privatisation alone will not solve the garbage problem because the worst offenders are the poor who often cannot even afford the current Rp10,000 monthly contribution that local governments ask for, leading to disposal in rivers and elsewhere as the above figures show.

Whether full, partial or no privatisation occurs, Enri Damanhuri, an expert in waste management from Bandung's University of Technology, says that the real task is to change people's attitude to waste disposal. "People need to be encouraged to separate their garbage into organic and non-organic material before it leaves their home. The government could then set up programmes that, for example, buy back compost which is made from household organic garbage. Unless attitudes change, we are just shifting the problem from one site to another."

A change to the system

News began to surface in September of a possible change to the country's political system that would see the number of parties allowed to contest legislative elections drastically reduced. After statements of support from the major political parties, it emerged that a team of government experts is preparing the preliminary material for a draft law, which would raise the electoral threshold needed by parties to contest elections from 3 to 5 percent.

Before the political liberalisation in 1998, only three political parties were allowed to contest elections, all of which were heavily controlled by the state. Following the fall of Soeharto in 1998 revisions to the laws on political parties saw over 100 new political parties form, with 48 passing the criteria to run in the 1999 elections. Subsequently, another round of screening was held prior to the 2004 elections, which reduced the number of political parties contesting the elections to 24.

Until now political parties have needed to fulfill two criteria to contest legislative elections. First, they must have regional branches in at least two-thirds of the provinces and within two-thirds of the districts within those provinces, with each branch containing at least 100 members. Second they must have gained at least 3 percent of the vote in the last legislative election.

The proposals would see the stipulation of regional branches stay the same but would raise the electoral threshold initially from 3 to 5 percent, eventually climbing gradually to 10 percent.

Indonesia's political system is widely believed to be hampered by the large number of political parties in the DPR, which leads to a tendency for extremely fluid coalitions and the disruption of the law-making process. By raising the