



Sembawang Wharf & Changi Naval Base Surveillance

“Sembawang Wharf & Changi Naval Base Surveillance: Jemaah Islamiyah” Source: Government of Singapore



[In November 2001, Jemaah Islamiyah operatives conducted video surveillance of Singapore’s Sembawang Wharf and the Changi Naval Base, which were utilized extensively by the U.S. Navy. The operatives were tasked by JI explosives expert Fathur Rahman al-Ghozi (a.k.a. “Mike”), who had ties to Hambali, JI’s military commander. This plot reportedly never became well-developed. Instead, the cell, which was disrupted in December 2001, focused on attacking Western embassies.]

Filming of Sembawang Wharf and Changi Naval Base

“The filming of Sembawang Wharf was done in November 2001. On the instructions of ‘Mike’ who wanted footage of Changi Naval Base and Sembawang Wharf, Mohd Ellias s/o Mohd Khan (Ellias) and Mohd Nazir bin Mohd Uthman (Nazir) filmed the Sembawang Wharf from the Johor side. According to Ellias, the filming was done at a location in Johor which was situated directly opposite the Sembawang Wharf. Ellias said the initial filming was done openly but they later adjourned to a nearby seafood restaurant to continue with their filming so as not to attract undue attention. Adnan bin Musa, on his part, also filmed the Changi Naval Base and warships in the area. He did so on board a ferry on his way to and return from a beach resort.”

“The footage of Sembawang Wharf and Changi Naval Base was uncovered in a VCD disguised with the title, ‘MP3 – Rock n Roll’, which was found in Ellias’ possession. The VCD showed a 7-minute footage of Sembawang Wharf and a close-up shot of a warship (Annex B1), and a 2-minute footage of warships at Changi Naval Base and its vicinity (Annex B2). (Note: The footage of Changi Naval Base and Sembawang Wharf were ‘shaky’ and ‘unclear.’)¹

¹ Source: Singapore Ministry of Home Affairs.