Committee Member of 212 Reunion Denies Holding Political Actions

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The Secretary General of the Muslim People's Forum or FUI, cleric Muhammad Al Khaththath, has denied the 212 Reunion is political movement. He said Thursday (on 30 November) at the building of DPR (the House of Representatives) that the reunion was an Islamic activity.

[The cleric explained that it would be an activity dealing with a kind of democratic discussions (musyawarah) on Muslims' roles in the state and the people's prosperity.]

He also said that the reunion was [at the same time] an occasion for Muslims to gather and celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad or Maulid and to strengthen our Indonesian Muslims' unity.

In the meantime, the National Police (Polri) chief, General Tito Karnavian, had earlier said that the event was a kind of mass political action, having to do with 2018 and 2019 elections.

[The Indonesian Ulema Council or MUI had also said that it would not need to hold a reunion event or to revive the 212 rally since it would tend to only insinuate unnecessary criticism; instead of delivering sermons, they would tend to inappropriately provoke agitation and prejudice the people against the government.]

Cleric Al Khaththath insisted, however, that many Indonesian media had given their comment on things that would not take place in the 212 reunion.

Source: Qoid/Syafi'i, <u>kiblat/2017/11/30/panitia-bantah-reuni-212-sebagai-kegiatan-politik/, "</u>Panitia Bantah Reuni 212 sebagai Kegiatan Politik (Member of 212 reunion committee, cleric Muhammad Al Khaththath, denies it political action)", in Indonesian, 30 Nov 17.

BROADCAST DATE/TIME	HEADLINE	SOURCE	STATUS		WORD COUNT	 DATE/TIME SUBMITTED	
0000 GMT, 30/11/17	Committee member of 212 reunion denies holding political actions [AH02_021217]	INSEM1	EDT	INDONESIA	261	 0001 GMT, 03/12/17	<u>Clone</u>