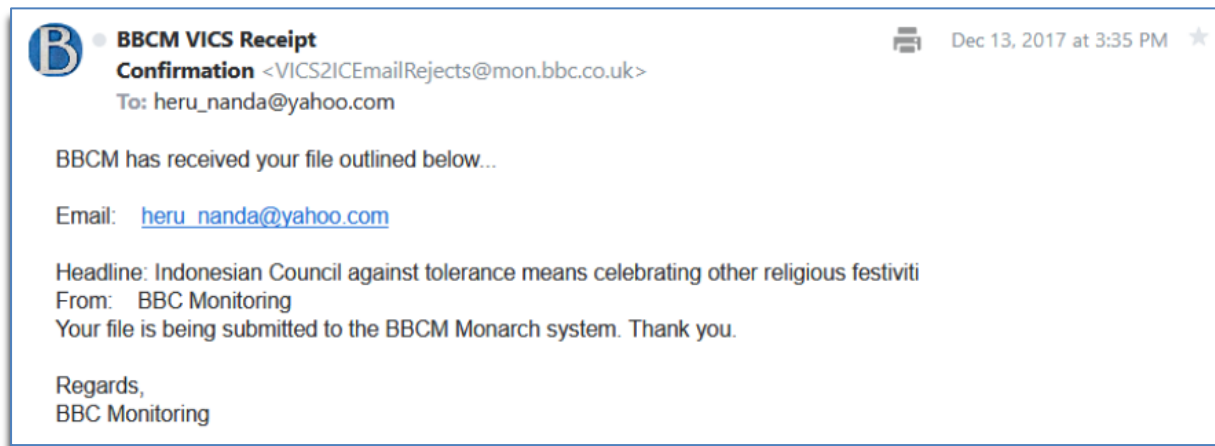


Indonesian Council: Tolerance Not To Mean Celebrating Other Religious Festivities



[AH14_121217 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Secretary General of Indonesia Ulema Council or MUI, cleric Anwar Abbas, has said that there is no such a thing as tolerance in faith and religious rituals.

His statement was to do with the present common things in Indonesia for non-Christians to wear Christmas-themed clothing including their having no-objections to say “Merry Christmas” during the month of December.

According to him, however, Indonesian non-Muslims should have stopped talking about religious tolerance, but understanding, instead, all those things dealing with Islamic faith.

“If only they had insisted Muslims to participate in celebrating their religious celebrations, I would clarify that it would have been the meaning of being tolerant,” the cleric was recently quoted as saying by hidayatullah.com in Jakarta.

Cleric Anwar Abbas further said that wearing other religions’ attributes would be haram or prohibited. He also believed that saying “Merry Christmas” means admitting the teachings of the very religion [Christianity].

He hoped, therefore, that not only would non-Muslims demand to be understood, but they should also understand those dealing with Islamic faith.

“To me such attitudes do not have to damage or shake our religious harmony in the country,” stated he.

The Indonesia Ulema country had to issue a fatwa (religious ruling) in 2016 [on 4 December 2016] on barring Muslims from wearing Christmas-themed clothing. The Council explained that the decision was due to entertaining some Muslims who had been feeling restless knowing that some Indonesian employers had happened to ask their employees for wearing such clothing.

Source: MAS/YGN,hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2017/12/12/130240/mui-memaksakan-muslim-ikut-perayaan-agama-lain-bukan-toleransi.html, “MUI: Memaksakan Muslim Ikut Perayaan Agama Lain Bukan Toleransi (MUI disagrees tolerance means participating in celebrating other religious festivities)”, in Indonesian, 12 Dec 17.

BROADCAST DATE/TIME	HEADLINE	SOURCE	STATUS	COUNTRY	WORD COUNT	CREATING USER	DATE/TIME SUBMITTED	
0000 GMT, 12/12/17	Indonesian Council: tolerance not to mean celebrating other religious festivities [AH14_121217]	SURHID	EDT	INDONESIA	294	Antonius Heru...	1718 GMT, 13/12/17	Clone