

Indonesian Minister angrily says no consultation on Jerusalem move



[AH12_101217 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The US Ambassador to Indonesia, Joseph Donovan, has said that before the Jerusalem move was stated, the US had consulted with its alliances and friendly countries, including Indonesia.

"We had consulted with our friends, alliances, and friendly countries including Indonesia before President Trump officially stated his decision," the Ambassador said in his letter on Thursday (7 December).

Ambassador Joseph Donovan has said exactly the same as the real statement made by President Trump. He also reaffirmed about respecting the "status quo", that the specific boundaries of Baitul Maqdis or the city of Jerusalem would not be affected. The status of Haram al-Sharif or holy sites would stay subject to a final status agreement.

In the meantime, Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi firmly stated that her meeting with the Ambassador was not a kind of consultation at all. It was his communication of President Trump's decision.

According to her, she has, indeed, summoned the US Ambassador, telling him not to implement such a new policy.

"So, he talked to me because I had summoned him. I told him about the position of Indonesia and urged him to report it to his government," she said in Banten, West Java, on Thursday (7 December).

Minister Retno also said that at that time Donovan had been instructed by his government that the discourse on Jerusalem move had not been a final decision yet.

She clarified that the following day she talked to the Ambassador, asking him whether or not the final decision had been made. She also demanded to talk to the US Foreign Minister Rex Tillerson to re-insisting about the position of Indonesia.

"So, don't get a wrong perception about it. It was the Indonesian initiative to summon the Ambassador insisting on our concern," said Minister Retno Marsudi.

Source: Ameera, arrahmah/2017/12/09/dubes-sebut-sudah-konsultasi-dengan-indonesia-soal-yerusalem-menluretno-marah/, "Dubes AS Sebut Sudah Konsultasi Dengan Indonesia Soal Yerusalem, Menlu Retno Marah (Minister Retno gets angry when US Ambassador says to have already consulted on Jerusalem move to Indonesia)", in Indonesian, 09 Dec 17.

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