

Indonesian Islamic Leader Insists Not To Regard Islam Criminal Suspect



[AH32_281117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The General Chairman of Muhammadiyah (the second largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), Haedar Nashir, has stated (in *muhammadiyah.or.id*) that radicalism, intolerance, and violent actions [in Indonesia] have been unreasonably assumed to have something to do with religion [or rather Islam]. According to him, radicalism grows in any fields. Otherwise, religions [read: Islam] and their followers become the suspects [in the case of radicalism and conflicts in the country].

He said that socio-political affairs including ones' fanatical about their ethnicity might also become the sources of radicalism.

Mentioning that all religious people refuse any forms of radicalism, he admitted that some of them, due to their limited religious understanding, had conducted radicalism actions.

It is not necessary to extremely politicise religions especially that the religious mainstreams in Indonesia are, in fact, moderate.

Criticizing secular-humanism and liberalism in dealing with democracy and human rights (such as recently seen, for example, in recognising ingenious faiths while marginalizing religions), he said that Indonesian people have already been settled down with their strong religious teachings and Pancasila ideology.

It is ironical, therefore, to regard religions [read: Islam] as the source(s) of inappropriate things such as radicalism, terrorism, intolerance, and violent acts. The main mission of religions is to spread up peace and blessings to all people. The majority Indonesian people, Muslims, are making use of their religion as their life guideline. What would happen to this Nation without Islam and Muslims?

It is wrong, therefore, to have negative views on religions [Islam]. It is not right to blame and make Islam and its followers as the suspects of having conducting the bad things taking place in the country.

Islam is a kind of group symbol or in-group to fight against those foreign trouble makers and non-Islam oppressors. Indonesian Muslims have done anything to eradicate colonialism, making the country an independent state. Muhammadiyah has even made this Pancasila State as a holy state or *Darul Ahdi Wa Syahadah*, while NU or Nahdatul Ulama [the largest Islamic community organization in the country] has issued its Jihad Resolution. All Islamic movements are based on their true love of their Mother Land. They all would fight for their beloved Indonesia, defending it with their religious spirits!

Source: HN, suara-islam/read/kolom/opini/24265/Agama-Jadi-Tersangka, "Agama Jadi Tersangka (When Religions become criminal suspects)", in Indonesian, 27 Nov 17.

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