

Indonesian Largest Organization Not To Stop Fighting against Radicalism-Terrorism



[AH25_211117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The General Chairman of NU (or *Nahdlatul Ulama*, the largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), cleric Said Aqil Siradj, has stated that NU will never stop fighting against actions of radicalism and terrorism claimed to be carried out in the name of Islam.

"Whatever other people say about them has never bothered the very militants who strongly believe in their defending Islam," the cleric said during a press conference held in Jakarta on Monday (20 November).

The cleric also said that NU's National Congress and Grand Conference would take place in Lombok Island (on 23-25 November 2017).

Mentioning that the events would be officially opened by President Jokowi, he briefly explained the events' theme "Strengthening Nationalism Values by Implementing De-radicalism and Developing People's Economy."

According to him, claiming their radicalism and terrorism actions in the name of Islam is an insult to Islam. Their inappropriate actions do, indeed, taint the face of Islam.

"It is mentioned in Koran that such actions are the worst and the most evil crime," he said, adding that Prophet Muhammad had even predicted when some people would read Koran without understanding its substances in such a way that they would not realize that all their actions were actually against Koran.

Giving an example of such an action conducted by the Prophet's son in law, Ali bin Abi Thalib, cleric Said Aqil said that both radicalism and terrorism were not Islamic teachings at all.

According to him, the true face of Islam is Moderate Islam such as Islam Nusantara. It is the kind and thoughtful Islam exercised by Indonesian Muslims.

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"The Arabs have even said that they want to be like Indonesia. They have invited me to deliver a general lecture on Islam Nusantara in Egypt Al Azhar and in front of the King of Morocco," said the cleric.

He further said, therefore, that he could not understand about the attitudes of many Indonesians who had studied for several years in Arab [countries]. As soon as they arrived home in Indonesia, they would act and behave more Arab that the Arabs living in Arab countries.

Source: ASyakira, <u>suara-islam/read/kabar/nasional/24213/Said-Aqil-NU-tak-akan-Surut-Perangi-Radikalisme-Terorisme</u>, "Said Aqil: NU tak akan Surut Perangi Radikalisme-Terorisme (Said Aqil: NU will never stop fighting against radicalism and terrorism)", in Indonesian, 21 Nov 17.

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