

# Indonesian Islamist Leader Questions on Legalizing Indonesian Indigenous Faiths



[AH16\_121117 AntoniusHerujyanto\_USD\_Yk]

The General Chairman of Muhammadiyah (the second largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), cleric Haedar Nashir, has compared the official authority of the Constitutional Court with that of the old [during the New Order era] the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). He said it during the organization monthly meeting held in its Jakarta headquarters building on Friday (10 November).

[His statement was due to his strong feeling disappointed with the Constitutional Court's decision to allow followers of local Indonesian "religions" or indigenous faiths to state their beliefs on their national identity cards, or KTP. Not only did he, therefore, compare the Court with MPR (the People's Consultative Assembly), but he also mentioned that the Court was as powerful as God.]

Mentioning the good old days of MPR position with its powerful 560 members representing any elements of the society [during the authoritative President Soeharto's administration (1965-1987)], he said that the Assembly was very ideal. He added, however, that such an ideal MPR had been wrongly misused causing it turned into an *ad hoc* Assembly [MPRS], an institution of abusing power.

Haedar also clarified that it was very fortunate that the powerful 560 Indonesian important figures were very unlikely, if not impossible, to compromise to ruin the foundational principles of the National social political and religious life. It was only the factual truth that during the great political crisis [the fall of Soeharto], they strongly stood up with sincere attitudes of constitutionally setting up the movement of Reformation.

He regretted, however, that now there came such an institution called Constitutional Court with its authority as big as that of God.

Mentioning that the Court consisted of only nine members, he said that they would never ever be the same as those of the 560 members of MPRS.

According to him, the nine members with their subjectivity and understanding on socio-cultural political relation have to shoulder heavy burdens to make decisions on the life of all Indonesian people.

The very General Chairman of Muhammadiyah said further, insisting that such a condition should be strongly reconsidered for the sake of the appropriate condition of the legal and political order of the country in the future.

He concluded that it was a must that the nine members of the Constitutional Court should not determine the life of Indonesia as a state.

Source: Andi/MAS,[hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/12/127826/ketua-umum-muhammadiyah-menyoa-otoritas-mk.html](https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/berita nasional/read/2017/11/12/127826/ketua-umum-muhammadiyah-menyoa-otoritas-mk.html), "Ketua Umum Muhammadiyah Menyoal Otoritas MK (General Chairman of Muhammadiyah questions Constitutional Court's official authority on religion)", in Indonesian, 12 Nov 17.

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