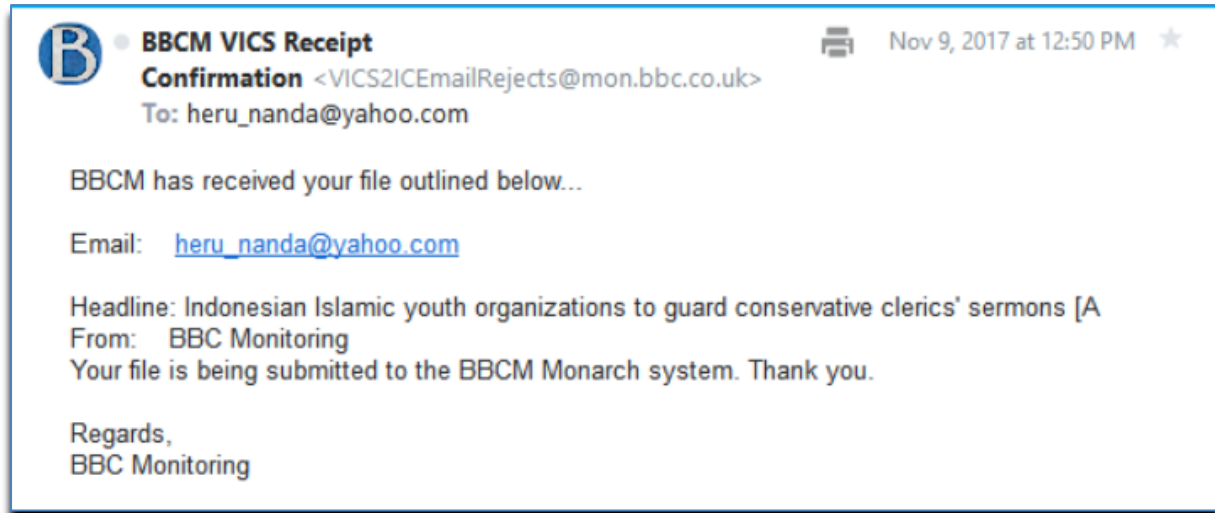


Indonesian Islamic Youth Organizations To Guard Conservative Clerics' Sermons



[AH11_081117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Security and Pemuda Muhammadiyah (the Youth wing of Muhammadiyah or the second largest Islamic community organization in the country), Kokam, has stated about their readiness guard the grand Islamic religious meeting and sermon (Tabligh Akbar) held in Garut (West Java). According to the chief of Kokam Garut, Dian Noviar Nugraha, their action would function as a mediator in time of emergency situation taking place during the event.

The event (Tabligh Akbar) would take place Saturday (on 11 November) with cleric Bachtiar Nasir and cleric Shabri Lubis as the keynote preachers.

Not only is cleric Bachtiar Nasir the important ulema figure of Muhammadiyah, but he is also the general chairman of the [conservative] National Movement to Save the Indonesian Ulema Council's Edicts (GNPF). In the meantime, cleric Shabri is the general chairman of the [radical] Defenders of Islam Front (FPI). Besides Kokam, therefore, the Youth wing of FPI, the Defenders of Islam Troops (LPI) have also planned to guard the event.

The readiness of Kokam and LPI for guarding the event was to respond to the statement of Banser Ansor, the youth wing of NU [the largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia], saying that they were against the coming of the two [conservative] clerics to deliver their Islamic sermons in Garut on Saturday (11 November).

The objection of Banser Ansor was officially made through a letter dated on 5 November and signed by the chairman of NU Chapter Garut. It was sent to Aliansi Umat Islam [the Alliance of Muslims], the Islamic organization holding the event.

In the meantime, the chairman of LPI Cirebon, Al-Faqir Obby bin Affandi, hoped that Banser Ansor would not send their groups to the event.

"We would not want to see bloodshed among Muslims take place during the religious event," he said.

Source: Yahya/MAS, hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/07/127423/kokam-dan-laskar-fpi-siap-jaga-tabligh-akbar-garut.html. "Kokam dan Laskar FPI Siap Jaga Tabligh Akbar Garut (Kokam and FPI prepared for guarding Grand Islamic Religious Meeting in Garut)", in Indonesian, 07 Nov 17.

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