

Churches in Papua against Adzan, Muslims Prepared for Dialogue



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH21_170318]

The Communion of Churches in Jayapura regency or PGGJ has written a protest letter to Muslims in Papua, raising objections to, among others, the construction of Al Aqsa Sentani mosque in the region.

Not only was the letter signed by both the Chairman and Secretary General of PGGJ, Rev. Robbi Depondoye and Rev. Joop Suebu, respectively, but it was also signed by four other important Papua Protestant clergymen on Thursday (15 March). The letter was also supported by 15 other Protestant churches in the province.

Mentioning that the Muslims have, among others, built mosques without communicating it first with the people in the surrounding area, Rev. Robbi Depondoye said that he had already reported the case to the local administration, asking for solving the problem persuasively and in accordance to the law.

The items mentioned in the letter are, among others, to make sure that adzan or the Islamic call for prayers that voiced through the loud speaker should be directed into the mosque.

Not to hold events of Islamic preaching in every region and areas in Papua province especially Jayapura District.

Not to demand to the government to provide Muslims with special space such as prayer room or mushala on public facilities such as schools, hospitals, markets, terminals and government offices.

Not to build mosques in Jayapura unless with the recommendation letters from PGGJ.

The height of the mosques and their towers should not exceed the height of the existing church building in Jayapura, Papua.

The regional administration and that of House of Representatives or DPRD Jayapura are demanded to issue Raperda or bylaws on having the harmony of religious communities in Jayapura District.

In response to the list of their objections, the chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council Chapter Papua, cleric Saiful Islam Payage said Saturday (on 17 March), that the council had proposed to hold a dialogue, solving the problems.

Source: [TI/IZ,kiblat/2018/03/17/azan-masjid-dan-dakwah-diprotas-kelompok-gereja-mui-papua-siap-dialog/](https://www.kiblat.com/2018/03/17/azan-masjid-dan-dakwah-diprotas-kelompok-gereja-mui-papua-siap-dialog/)
 “Azan, Masjid dan Dakwah Diprotas Kelompok Gereja, MUI Papua Siap Dialog (Protestant churches in Papua against Azan, MUI Papua prepared for a dialogue)”, in *Indonesian*, 17 March 18.

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