Indonesian Group Demands To Use Moderation Instead of De-Radicalization

Muhammadiyah, the second largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia, has disagreed with de-radicalization programme initiated by BNPT or the National Anti-Terrorism Agency.

The Chairman of Pemuda Muhammadiyah or the Youth wing of Muhammadiyah, Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak, said Wednesday (on 24 May) that the 500 Indonesians returning from Syria were the target of the programme.

According to him, the terms radicalization and de-radicalization are inappropriate. Instead of using the term de-radicalization, for example, BNPT should have used the word moderation.

Being one of the keynote speakers of a public discussion entitled “Quo Vadis the revisions to the anti-terrorism law” which was held at Muhammadiyah Jakarta headquarters Wednesday, he said that BNPT had, indeed, invited his organization to participate in the programme.

He said, however, that BNPT had never provided Muhammadiyah with the data of the 500 ex-Syria alumni Indonesians.

According to Dahnil, his institution is unable, thus, to both check their staying and participate in monitoring them. So, it is ironical to blame on Muhammadiyah for refusing to participate in the programme when the terrible incident such as the recent Surabaya bombings took place.

He admitted that some Islamic groups had, indeed, become too exaggerated in understanding Islamic teachings. He also said that Muhammadiyah would keep expecting to be invited to participate in the “moderation” programmes.