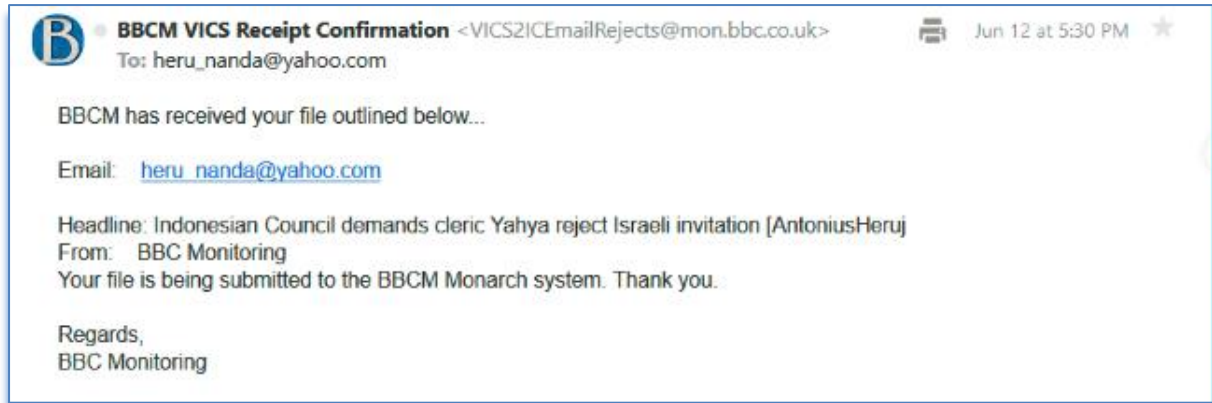


Indonesian Council Demands Cleric Yahya Reject Israeli Invitation



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH09_100618]

The Foreign Affairs Department of the Indonesian Ulema Council or MUI, cleric Muhyiddin Junaidi, has suggested that NU supreme council secretary-general, cleric Yahya Cholil Staquf [also known as Gus Yahya], reject Israeli invitation to deliver a general lecture at the David Amar World North African Jewish Heritage Centre, in Mendelin Institute Jerusalem on June 13.

According to him, such a visit to Israel would be against diplomatic, political, and religious ethics. It would also be clearly ignoring and violating the Jakarta agreement of IOC Extra Ordinary Summit on saving Al-Quds Syarif or *Baitul Maqdis*.

Quoted by *hidayatullah.com* Sunday (on 10 June) he said that it would be inappropriate at all especially that it would be covered up with cultural and academic masks amidst violence in Gaza, leaving dozens of Palestinians dead at the hands of Israeli armed forces.

To Indonesian cleric, visiting to Israel would also mean violating the Indonesian Constitution, tainting Indonesian image, and ruining the Indonesian diplomatic relations with both Palestine and Arabic Nations.

Cleric Muhyiddin Junaidi suggested that MUI issue a moral sanction against Gus Yahya as his decision would endanger the long struggle of the Palestinian people.

Disagreeing with an excuse of to change conflicts into having co-operations, he said that it would be an old absurd slogan. To him, such an Israeli trap would only be used to improve their bad image in the International eyes.

If Gus Yahya decided to accept Israeli invitation, he would only hurt Indonesian Muslims' feelings and the peace loving world communities.

Source: Andi/MAS, hidayatullah.com/berita/nasional/read/2018/06/10/144005/mui-kunjungan-yahya-cholil-staquf-ke-israel-tidak-perlu-dilakukan.html, "MUI: Kunjungan Yahya Cholil Staquf ke Israel Tidak Perlu Dilakukan (MUI: Cleric Yahya Cholil Staquf no need to visit to Israel)", in Indonesian, 10 June 18.

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