

Indonesian Ulema Disagree with Banning Cleric Samad's Sermons on YouTube



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH04_041118]

The Advisory Council Chairman of MUI [the Indonesian Ulema Council], Din Syamsuddin, has given his response to the petition on banning the sermons of [hard-liner] cleric Abdul Somad in YouTube. The cleric, who is from Riau Province, has become a controversial ulema **when he refused Prabowo's offer to be his** vice-presidential hopeful in the coming 2019 Indonesian presidential election. According to Din, the petition is against Islamic values and violating the so-called freedom of expression.

The petition was carried on *go-vote.online*, saying that 97per cent of 66.589 (or 64,893 Indonesians) disagree with the idea that his videos on YouTube to be erased. The other 3 per cent (or 1,696 people) strongly support to ban his sermons.

He further said Saturday (on 3 November) that **the cleric's sermons have got** nothing to do with HTI [the Indonesian Hizbut Tahrir which was banned in the country for violating the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) No 2/2017 and No. 17/2013 on mass organizations.] Islamic state in the form of the caliphate.

According to him, it is also wrong to say that any ulema talking about khilafah [or caliphate –an Islamic state] would always mean being anti-Pancasila [the Indonesian five principle ideology]. Khilafah is one of those important Islamic teachings.

He also demanded that Indonesian Muslims be united within the ukhwah Islamiyah [Islamic brotherhood] and prevent themselves from conducting violent actions. Otherwise, it would deal with the police.

Source:

Ameera, arrahmah/2018/11/04/komentar-din-syamsuddin-soal-petisi-hapus-ceramah-uas-di-youtube/, "Komentar Din Syamsuddin Soal Petisi Hapus Ceramah UAS di YouTube (Din Syamsuddin disagrees with idea to ban cleric Abdul Somad's sermons on YouTube)", in Indonesian, 04 Nov.

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