

# ISLAMOPHOBIA IN INDONESIA

Angel Damayanti

Prince of Songkla University (PSU)

Pattani, 30 Juli 2017

## **Background,**

1. Islam comes from the word “Salam” means peace.
2. Islam preaches its peaceful mission to the world despite its religious background.
3. Islam is also called “Rahmatan lil alamin” means “peaceful/merci for all and universe.”
4. This religious teaching has been consistently long practice by prophet Muhammad and his successors.

## **Cont’d**

1. Nonetheless, Islam is currently perceived as threat against world security. That’s why Islam now becomes phobia to the world, and all mankind.
2. International militant leaders capitalized Islam as symbol for propagating violent, such as terrorism.
  - Formerly Al Qaeda, then currently ISIS
3. The use of Islam as an ideology to promote international political system.
4. These two groups (AQ & ISIS) have different strategy in promoting violent mission to reach their goal.

## **Cont’d**

- These two groups have established their branches all over the world.
- It is almost certain that their action/movement created fear by Muslim and Non-Muslim all over the world.
- In SEA, AQ formerly established JI (Al Jamaah Islamiyah). This organization had its branches in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Australia.
- ISIS developed branches relatively different from AQ. While AQ developed its well structured followers, such as JI, ISIS is followed by small group or lone wolf.

## **Background**

- In general we can say that Indonesia is a plural and tolerant country and praised by many political leaders from abroad.
- With about 250 million people:
  - 87,21% is Muslim,
  - 6,96% is Christian Protestant,
  - 2,91% is Roman Catholic,
  - 1,69% Hindu,
  - 0,72% is Buddhism,
  - 0,05% is Confucianism.
  - 0,5% Others (local religions)

But, In the last 2 decades, the issue of terrorism, the efforts to insert the Syariah Law in National Constitution, local regulations restricting the establishment of worship places and the case of Ahok (former governor of Jakarta) has raised the concern of Islamophobia in Indonesia.

## **Historical Context**

- Islamophobia and violent in the name of Islam in Indonesia can be traced from the beginning of the independence of the country in 1945.
- Starting from the debate on the foundation of the ideology the state, “Islamic State vs Unitary State of Indonesia.”
- Eventually, both groups agreed to establish Indonesia on the basis of unitary state with Pancasila as the ideology, instead of religious/Islamic state. As they perceived that Pancasila is compatible with Islamic teachings.

## **Cont'd**

- However, in 1948, disappointed group from Islamic community declared Darul Islam (Indonesian Islamic State)
- This movement had its strong supporters in three regions: West Java, Aceh and Makasar (South Sulawesi).
- Eventually, Soekarno regime defeated this movement in 1960s.

## **Cont'd**

1. Yet, following the Iranian Revolution in 1980s, this movement gained its momentum to re-awake.
2. In the end of Soeharto Era (1990s), DI has modified into Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). JI also involved in several terrorist attacks in Indonesia. (Christmas Eve bombing, Bali Bombing 1 & 2, JW Marriot, and currently the stab of police officer in Medan)
3. Terrorist groups using the violence in the name of Islam has destroyed the image of Islam as religion of peace in the social and religious life.

## **Recommendations**

Islamophobia can be diminished by following steps:

1. Building perception → Islamic values are compatible with the values of Pancasila and other religions, such as anti-corruption, fair and just development, and equal treatment to everybody.
2. Substantial prioritization → promoting Syariah Law into the implementation of its essence instead of symbol.
3. Promoting the idea of “Islam as rahmatan lil alamin” to de-radicalized terrorist activists/groups using the symbol of Islam.
4. Community building which works on promoting tolerance and peace in the pluralistic society of Indonesia.