

CHRISTIAN DAILY

Indonesia demands the promotion of 'tolerant Islam'

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The Southeast Asian country of Indonesia has called on Islamic leaders during the International Summit of the Moderate Islamic Leaders to spread messages promoting a tolerant Islam with hopes of suppressing extremism. Islam teachings are often misinterpreted, which causes extremism.



(Reuters/Darren Whiteside) Members of Indonesia's hardline Islamic group, the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), are pictured above at a protest.

"That's why the role of Islamic clerics is needed to do more to correct the misinterpretation ... We gather here today for that purpose, to produce the solution to curb radicalism in the form of terrorism, wars and conflicts," Muhammad Jusuf Kalla said at the summit, as quoted by the ABC news. Jusuf Kalla is the vice president of Indonesia.

Kalla says that the youth who are most likely to become militants are those who don't have deep faith. He points out that becoming a militant is not for wealth or political cause, but most militants believe it is a "shortcut" to heaven.

The International Summit of Moderate Islamic Leaders aims to share a message and give importance in advocating a peaceful Islam to fight radicalism, which is currently widespread.

The event was organized by Nahdlatul Ulama, a traditionalist Sunni Islam movement in Indonesia. More than 300 religious leaders from 33 countries, including clerics from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Iran are present in the summit.

Indonesia is considered to be the world's most populous Muslim nation. Militants had carried out a series of attacks that killed and affected quite a large number of people. The existence of 1.6 billion Muslims all around the world, across 57 countries should be enough to become a force in promoting the goodness of Islam.

Wars for the sake of democracy against authoritarian governments can also lead to extremism and radical acts in different parts of the world.

There is a need for moderate Islamic states. Hopefully, this will provide grace, goodness and unity to the Islamic community. Kalla believes that in order to defeat radicalism and terrorism, there must be the presence of the unity and integrity of the whole nations.

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