



Adoption of Nusantara Statement Launches Global Movement to Block the Political Weaponization of Islam

Statement Adopted Amidst Coordinated Extremist Campaign to Sabotage Summit

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia: A global movement to block the political weaponization of Islam has been launched from Indonesia with the adoption of the *Nusantara Statement* by a diverse, multi-faith group of religious, cultural and political figures guided by the spiritual leadership of the world's largest Muslim organization—the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).

The *Statement*, which calls on people of goodwill of every faith and nation to join in building a global consensus to prevent the political weaponization of Islam by governments and non-state actors, was adopted by delegates at the Second Global Unity Forum in Yogyakarta. This follows on the previous *Amman Message* and *Marrakesh Declaration* which called for mutual understanding and dialogue, and the *Gerakan Pemuda Ansor Declaration on Humanitarian Islam*, which established a roadmap for the reform of problematic tenets within Islamic orthodoxy.

The *Nusantara Statement* was adopted following three days of controversy sparked by a coordinated campaign of provocation and sabotage ostensibly conducted by banned Islamist group Hizbut Tahrir (HTI), but widely believed to be directed by other political forces invested in swinging the outcome of Indonesia's Presidential elections next year.

Across Indonesia on Hari Santri, Indonesia's national day, Hizbut Tahrir operatives disrupted celebrations by Gerakan Pemuda Ansor—the Nahdlatul Ulama young adults movement, with over 5 million members—by waving the HTI flag in the midst of the celebrations, which led to the burning of the flag in one incident in Garut, West Java. Politically-connected HTI operatives recorded the incident, and it was immediately broadcast on opposition television stations. Accusations of blasphemy soon followed as the flag contains the Islamic declaration of faith.

“We cancelled a rally of 100,000 tomorrow in Yogyakarta to prevent violence,” explains Presidential Advisor and NU General Secretary KH. Yahya Cholil Staquf, “70,000 Ansor members on-route to Yogyakarta and further incidents of provocation were planned. Our members would find it difficult to control their anger in the face of such flagrant exploitation of our religious symbols.”

GP Ansor's General Chairman, H. Yaqut Qoumas, commented that “the cynical abuse of the declaration of faith by HTI for political gain underlines why the *Nusantara Statement*, which calls for an end to the political weaponization of Islam, and the global movement we are launching here today, are so necessary. We have seen accusations of blasphemy levelled again and again to swing elections, and Islamist political movements with the same ideology as HTI have left cities in ruin, countless dead, and millions displaced over a vast arc of territory stretching from the Western Sahel to the Southern Philippines. It is high time that people of good will across the world unite to stop this.”

Evangelical Reverend Johnnie Moore was among those to sign the *Nusantara Statement*, referencing his book, *Defying ISIS*, as he did so “every act of love on behalf of someone that ISIS wants to kill is a dagger in the heart of their ideology. By inviting me here to sign this statement, you have afforded me another opportunity to stand in solidarity with Muslims against this evil ideology.”

Johnnie Moore accompanied Mr. Staquf, who is spearheading the global expansion of NU operations, in a [meeting](#) this May with [U.S. Vice President Michael Pence](#), which Rev. Moore described as “two deeply religious men sitting together in solidarity to stand against radicalization of all forms.”

The *Nusantara Statement* contains the core message of the longer *Nusantara Manifesto*, which employs the science of *uṣūl al-fiqh*—the methodology of independent legal reasoning used to create Islamic law—to examine why it is theologically valid and necessary for contemporary Muslim scholars to recontextualize the obsolete and problematic tenets within Islamic orthodoxy that enable its political weaponization and abuse to justify religious hatred, supremacy and violence.