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## International Figures: Stop Using Religion as Political Tool

**TEMPO.CO, Jakarta** - Founder and Chairman of Wasatia Movement, Dr. Mohammed Dajani, recalled of the many political parties in his home country that have spread the message of hate rather than love and affection (*Rahmah*).

Dajani gave an example of how the Hamas uses visual propaganda showing children tied with bombs as a means to eliminate others.

"They are led to hate the Jews and the Christians. They burn synagogues and churches. This is not Islam, this is hatred," he said in attendance of the 2nd Global Unity Forum at the Marriot Hotel in Sleman, Yogyakarta on Friday, October 26.

He maintains that religion should not be used as a political vessel and if it is used, it will only present rupture among society such as in Palestine, where there are thirty secular political parties that do not aspire to religious noble values.

However, Dr. Mohammed Dajani said that the 10 Islamic organizations in Palestine have also failed to fulfill that aspiration and has not spread Islam's core value. Such as the Hizbut Tahrir that has used the Holy Quran as a commentary to spread hate against the Jews and Christians.

He gave an example of Hizbut Tahrir in Palestine and anywhere in the world that interprets the last three verses of the Holy Quran's first chapter, Al Fatihah, as God's anger toward the Jews and Christians as deviates. In actuality, said Dajani, it is interpreted as God's anger toward hypocrites and people who reject the truth.

Echoing Dr. Dajani, Executive Director American Islamic Congress Zainab al-Suwaij from Iraq also said that her country faced a downfall after witnessing religion is often used as political tool.

"What has happened in Iraq is that many people have died and family members went missing. Civilization is destroyed because they speak on behalf of religion to kill fellow humans," said Zainab.

Both figures agree that Indonesia must respond to differences and that Iraq and Palestine learn from Indonesia. They view Indonesia as a country that protects religious, ethnic group, and racial differences. (MUH SYAIFULLAH)

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