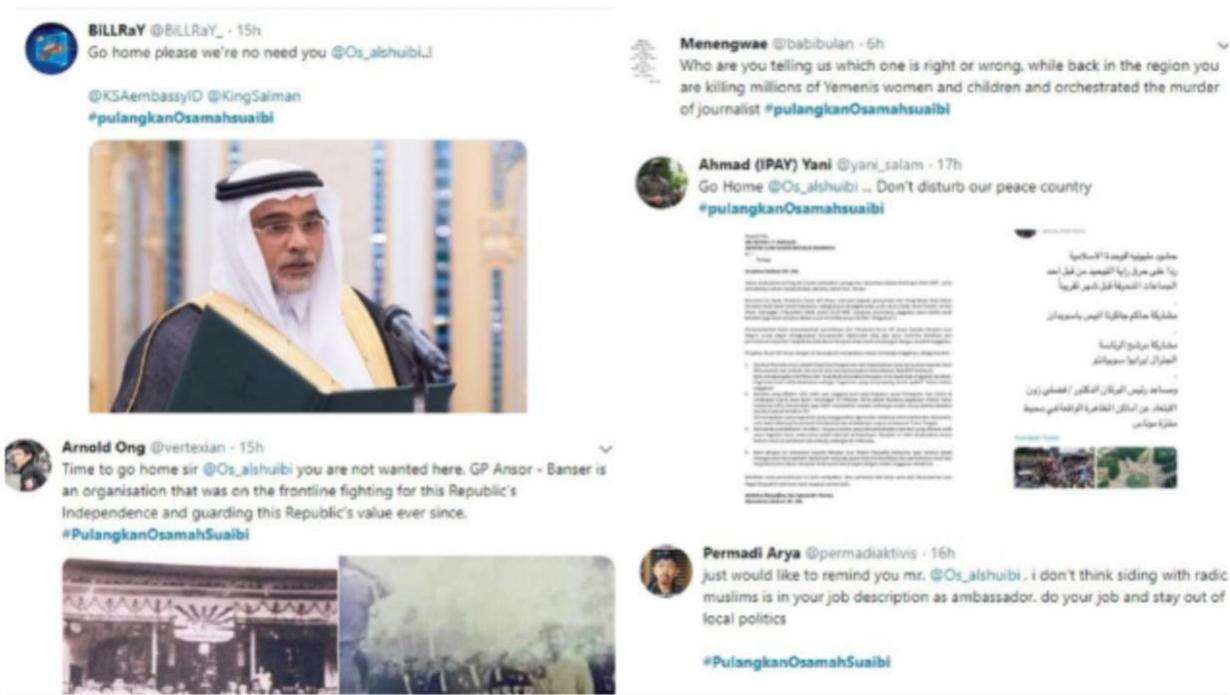


NU and netizens demand Saudi ambassador to Indonesia leave the country over pro-212 tweet

December 4, 2018



A sampling of tweets calling for the Saudi Ambassador to Indonesia to leave the country with the hashtag #PulangkanOsamahSuaibi (which translates to “Send Osama Suaibi home”)

Many have argued that [Saudi Arabia has long been growing its influence in Indonesia](#) through means such as the funding of Islamic schools in Indonesia and scholarships for Indonesians to study Islam in Saudi. But the Middle Eastern kingdom has rarely been accused of directly attempting to influence Indonesian politics. However, a tweet from Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to Indonesia in support of [Sunday’s politicized 212 anniversary rally](#) has caused major outrage, leading to calls that he lose his post and be sent home.

In a now deleted tweet, Saudi Arabian ambassador Osama bin Mohammed Abdullah Al Shuaib posted pictures of the Islamist hardliner organized rally, writing in the caption: “The act of millions of Muslims as a reaction to the burning of a flag carrying the *tauhid* text by a heretical organization.”



د. أسامه محمد الشعبي
@Os_alshuibi

حشود مليونيه للوحدة الاسلاميه
ردا على حرق راية التوحيد من قبل احد
الجماعات المنحرفة قبل شهر تقريبا
مشاركة حاكم جاكرتا انيس باسويدان

مشاركة مرشح الرئاسة
الجنرال /برابوا سويانتو

ومساعد رئيس البرلمان الدكتور /فضلي زون
الابتعاد عن أماكن المظاهرة الواقعة في محيط
منتزة موناس

Translate Tweet



So, there's a lot to unpack in that tweet because so much of it is inaccurate. First, [reliable estimates put the number of participants at the so-called "212 Grand Reunion" somewhere between 40,000 to 100,000](#). Second, the rally was, first and foremost, a commemoration of the 2nd anniversary of the December 2, 2016 protests against former Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama over highly politicized charges that he had committed blasphemy against Islam and *not* a about the infamous *tauhid* flag burning incident Usamah is referring to.

That incident concerns the most incendiary aspect of the ambassador's tweet, the last part in which he says the flag burning was done be a "heretical" organization.

The organization he was referring to is Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), Indonesia and the world's biggest Islamic organization by membership. In October, [a video went viral showing members of NU's youth wing burning a flag they believed belonged to the banned Islamist organization Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia \(HTI\)](#) — a black flag that contained the *tauhid*, Islam's sacred monotheistic declaration. The video led to mass protests in Jakarta declaring the flag burning blasphemous and demanding the perpetrators be punished — even though the flag burners had already been arrested and were eventually sentenced to prison.

Naturally, Ambassador Osama calling NU a deviant organization did not sit well at all with officials from the highly influential organization. Nahdlatul Ulama's Executive Board

(PBNU) has officially called for the Saudi representative to be severely sanctioned for the accusation and be forced to leave Indonesia.

“We are urging the Indonesian government to submit a directive to the Saudi government to repatriate Osama as sanction for his acts of recklessness by interfering with the Indonesian state’s political affairs,” PBNU head Said Aqil Siroj said at a news conference at PBNU’s office in Jakarta yesterday as quoted by *Detik*.

According to Said Aqil, what the ambassador wrote constituted slander, adding that those involved in the flag burning incident had already been properly sanctioned by NU.

In addition to officials calls from NU that Ambassador Osama be removed from his posts, many of the organization’s members and supporters have taken to social media to echo their demand with the hashtag **#PulangkanOsamahSuaibi** (which translates to “Send Osama Suaibi home”).

Arnold Ong
@vertexian

Time to go home sir [@Os_alshuibi](#) you are not wanted here. GP Ansor - Banser is an organisation that was on the frontline fighting for this Republic's Independence and guarding this Republic's value ever since. [#PulangkanOsamahSuaibi](#)

64 8:04 AM - Dec 3, 2018

68 people are talking about this



Ahmad (IPAY) Yani
@yani_salam



Go Home @Os_alshuibi ... Don't disturb our peace country
#pulangkanOsamahsuaibi

**Keputusan
Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia
No. 1
Tentang
Amnesty/Keputusan No. 1/18**

Salah satu tujuan penting dari konstitusi adalah untuk melindungi hak-hak warga negara dan memastikan bahwa Indonesia adalah negara demokrasi.

Keputusan No. 1/18, Keputusan Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia, tentang pemberian Amnesty/Keputusan No. 1/18, adalah sebagai berikut:

1. Dengan Keputusan ini, Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Republik Indonesia memutuskan untuk memberikan Amnesty/Keputusan No. 1/18 kepada para pelaku kejahatan yang terdapat dalam daftar yang terlampir.

2. Keputusan ini berlaku sejak tanggal 22 Oktober 2018.

3. Keputusan ini berlaku untuk para pelaku kejahatan yang terdapat dalam daftar yang terlampir.

4. Keputusan ini berlaku untuk para pelaku kejahatan yang terdapat dalam daftar yang terlampir.

حشود مليونية للوحدة الإسلامية
رداً على حرق راية التوحيد من قبل أحد
الجماعات المتطرفة قبل شهر تقريباً

مشاركة حاكم جاكرتا انيس باسويدان

مشاركة مرشح الرئاسة
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ومساعد رئيس البرلمان الدكتور /قاضي زون
الابتعاد عن أماكن المظاهرات الواقعة في محيط
منطقة مونا

Translated Tweet

32 6:46 AM - Dec 3, 2018



37 people are talking about this



Permadi Arya
@permadiaktivis



just would like to remind you mr. @Os_alshuibi , i don't think
siding with radical muslims is in your job description as
ambassador. do your job and stay out of local
politics#PulangkanOsamahSuaibi

480 7:49 AM - Dec 3, 2018



337 people are talking about this





In reaction to the outrage, [Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned the Deputy Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Jakarta to give them a clarification regarding the ambassador's tweet](#) as Ambassador Osama is currently out of the country. The government has not given any indication whether they might take further action against the diplomat.

Some online have questioned whether Ambassador Osama is not-so surreptitiously supporting forces opposed to President Joko Widodo's administration. When infamous firebrand cleric and 212 figurehead Rizieq Shihab, who is currently avoiding legal troubles in Indonesia by residing in Saudi Arabia, was [questioned by authorities in the Middle Eastern kingdom for a tauhid flag that was hung on the wall outside his home](#) (authorities believed it might be the flag of ISIS, which is banned in Saudi Arabia), [the ambassador defended Rizieq and said he was being treated very well by officials in his country](#).

Also, while this doesn't really prove anything, some have also noted that [the only Indonesian figure that Ambassador Osama follows on Twitter is Prabowo Subianto](#), who is challenging Joko Widodo in the 2019 presidential election and spoke at Sunday's 212 reunion rally.

<https://coconuts.co/jakarta/news/nu-netizens-demand-saudi-ambassador-indonesia-leave-country-pro-212-tweet/>