

Judaism, LibForAll, Bayt Ar-Rahmah and Staquf

By Elfalasteen | June 12, 2018

Indonesia Stands with Palestine



PALESTINOW.COM — Since the news about the visit by one of Indonesian figure to Jerusalem as to fulfill invitation of the Zionist Israel, the condemnation from many sides come. Hamas and Fatah even spoke about this, they strongly condemned his `crime`. It is Yahya Cholil Staquf, a General Secretary of Indonesian Muslim Organization (*Nahdlatul Ulama*) and a member of the presidential consideration council, who attended the Zionist invitation to come to the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Global Forum in

the Apartheid State of Israel. Although he had previously denied and gave a written clarification that he canceled the visit, but in fact, he came.

In a same forum with a war criminal, Benjamin Netanyahu and sitting casually in front of thousands of Zionist Israel supporters, Staquf sat quietly and calmly in answer to all moderator questions.

In a video that lasts 14:36 minutes, it was initially seen that the moderator mention his position as Bayt ar-Rahmah`s high official, secretary-general of Nahdlatul ulama, and Abdurahman Wahid`s successor, but actually what is the relation between them?

In this article, the author will give a little description of the linkage. And how could Indonesia, as a country that has the biggest Muslim Community in the world and as a loyal supporter of Palestine can be tarnished because of one person.

In 2008, Walter Ruby in the New York Jewish Week published an article about C. Holland Taylor. Who is he? C. Holland Taylor is a North Carolina-born ex-businessman who was born Christian but terms himself a "universalist drawn to mystical traditions in all religions,". Taylor is so convinced that there is a tolerant, pluralistic form of Islam that has the self-confidence and mass appeal to counter the spread of violent and fundamentalist jihadist ideology across the Muslim world (*according to him, since 9/11 tragedy there are many extremists were born from Islam-ed*).

With Abdurrahman Wahid, a former president of Indonesia they form an international NGO known as the LibforAll Foundation. The organization is dedicated to supporting moderate Muslims in promoting a culture of liberty and tolerance.

That effort has been successful enough over the past five years in Indonesia, a Southeast Asia archipelago with 240 million people — by far the world's largest Muslim nation — that Taylor and Wahid now hope to extend LibforAll's campaign against `religious extremism` throughout the Muslim world (*I have question, why only Muslims?-ed*).

In 2007, LibforAll sponsored two initiatives that signaled its determination to challenge Muslim militant ideology head on, even at the risk of being labeled **pro-Zionist**: a conference held last June 2007 in Bali at which Wahid made a speech rebuking Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for promoting Holocaust denial, and he made a visit to Apartheid State of Israel in December 2007 by a delegation of high-level Indonesian Muslim leaders.

“The courageous Indonesian Muslim leaders involved in our movement are ready to work with people of all backgrounds and faiths in the battle against `Islamic extremism`, which is a threat to all of humanity.”, Taylor said. *(Then I said, Israeli Apartheid is the cancer of the world-ed)*

Later on Taylor and Wahid, who is known popularly in Indonesia as Gus Dur, became friend. Wahid has devoted himself to promoting religious tolerance, pluralism and democracy in Indonesia, including with his idea to build Indonesian embassy for Israeli Apartheid in Tel Aviv.

Together, Taylor and Wahid decided to create **LibforAll** (the “lib” stands for both liberty and liberation), an Indonesian and U.S.-based organization dedicated to buttressing moderate Muslims as they fend off a lavishly-funded effort by the Saudi government, they think that KSA government was promoting Wahhabi brand of Islam to spread the tenets of that sect to Indonesia. Because in recent years, Indonesia has seen a spurt of violence by some bombing attacks, including suicide bombings in Jakarta and the tourist island of Bali that killed hundreds.

According to Taylor, “Gus Dur and I reach out to spiritual leaders and opinion leaders in Indonesian society who have a pluralistic understanding of Islam and are ready to advocate it publicly in order to dissuade Muslim population from supporting `extremism and violence`.”

In an article published in 2007 in the Wall Street Journal, Wahid wrote, “Muslims themselves can and must propagate an understanding of the `right` Islam, and thereby discredit `extremist ideology` ... Our goal must be to illuminate the hearts and minds of humanity and offer a compelling alternative vision of Islam, one that banishes the fanatical ideology of hatred to the darkness from which it emerged.”, *(Unfortunately, he just addressed his words to Muslims, he forgot for what`s happening in Palestine since 1948-ed)*

Soon after co-founding LibforAll, Wahid denounced a series of fatwas (religious rulings) issued by a high-ranking council of Indonesian Muslim clerics that condemned any Islamic teachings based on liberalism and banned the participation of Muslims in interfaith prayers with non-Muslims. In the less than five years since the founding of LibforAll, Taylor has built a growing network of supporters in Europe and the United States. Last year, LibforAll received funding from the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for work advising European governments how to prevent the growth of Islamic extremism in their countries.

In 2006, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations recommended that \$3.5 million be appropriated to LibforAll for programs targeting Muslim youth in the Middle East and elsewhere, but the appropriation later due to gridlock between Republicans and Democrats on the Hill.

LibforAll and the Wiesenthal Center had a weeklong trip to Apartheid Israel and the West Bank by a five-member delegation of leaders of the two largest Muslim movements in Indonesia. The participants visited Sderot, danced with yeshiva students in Kiryat Shemona, dialogued in Ramallah with Mohammed Dajani, a Palestinian professor and peace activist, and held an hour-long meeting with Zionist President Shimon Peres.

In its website the definition of LibForAll ("Liberty for All") Foundation is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization formed in the wake of 9/11 to help meet U.S. and international peace and security needs. In the words of then-U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism, Juan Zarate, "We consider LibForAll to be the loadstar in efforts to defeat the ideology of radical Islam."

We can see that the Foundation only wants to defeat the ideology of "radical Islam", they think that only Islam is radical. Meanwhile, radicalism is happening in anywhere and by anyone. Look in Palestine, radical Jewish everyday terrorize Palestinians. Look in Myanmar, radical Buddhist terrorize Rohingya, look in Kashmir and India, radical Hindu terrorize Indian Muslims. But why they just focus for Islam? Is that the definition of liberty?

Holland Taylor established LibForAll Foundation in 2003 with his close friend, former Indonesian president H.E. Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid (1940-2009). In 2008 they established al-Mahad al-Dawali lil-Dirasaat al-Qur'aniyya (the International Institute of Qur'anic Studies, or IIQS) with Kyai Haji A. Mustofa Bisri, Dr. A. Syafii Maarif and Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd of Egypt. **But what for? To defeat Islam itself.**

Besides, Taylor is a Co-founder, Deputy Chairman and COO, Bayt ar-Rahmah li ad-Da'wa al-Islamiyah Rahmatan li al-'Alamin (Home of Divine Grace for Revealing and Nurturing Islam as a Blessing for All Creation). And Yahya Cholil Staquf is Modir (Director of Religious Affairs) of Bayt ar-Rahmah. He also serves as General Secretary to the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) Supreme Council.

So could you find the similarity and the connection between that? Do you know the answer why Staquf visit Zionist state without mentioning Palestine? Well, you know why...

As an Indonesian and Palestinian supporter, **I STRONGLY** condemn with everything relationship between Indonesia-Zionist state, because we will never ever recognize Zionist state as legal state. If there are some ignorance people visit or support Zionist Israel, they do not represent the whole nation. Because we, Indonesians, will always stand with Palestine and acknowledge that Jerusalem is the **ETERNAL CAPITAL OF PALESTINE**.

<http://www.palestinow.com/judaism-libforall-bayt-ar-rahmah-and-staquf/>