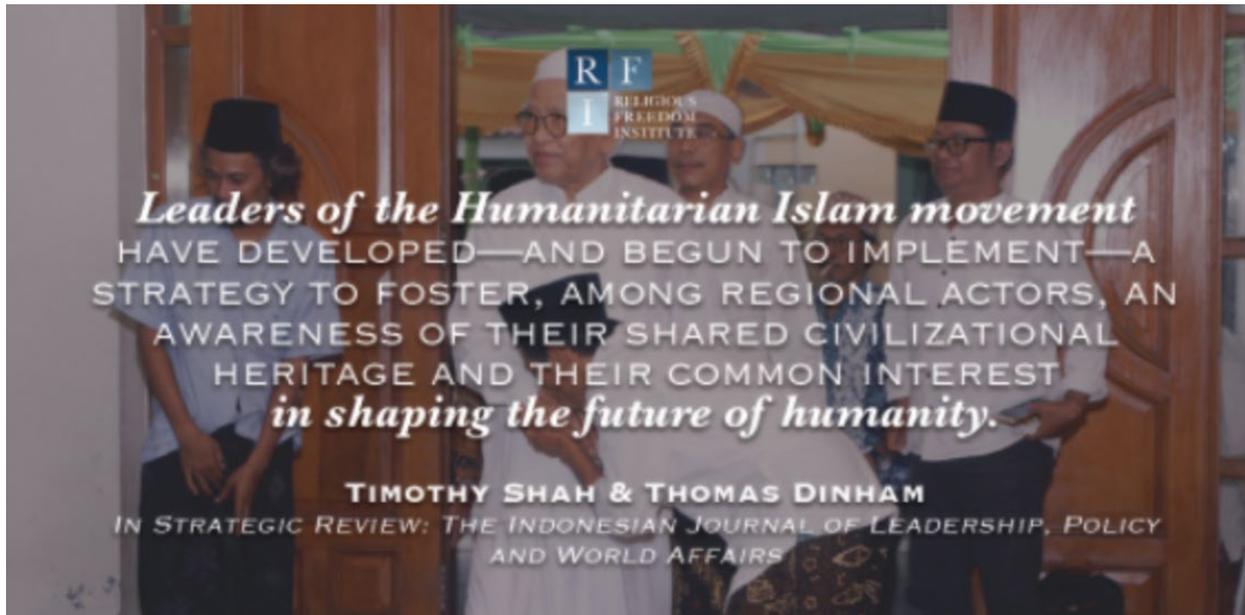




RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
INSTITUTE

COMMENTARY

Research. Education. Impact.



Humanitarian Islam: Fostering shared civilizational values to revitalize a rules-based international order

By Timothy Shah and Thomas Dinham

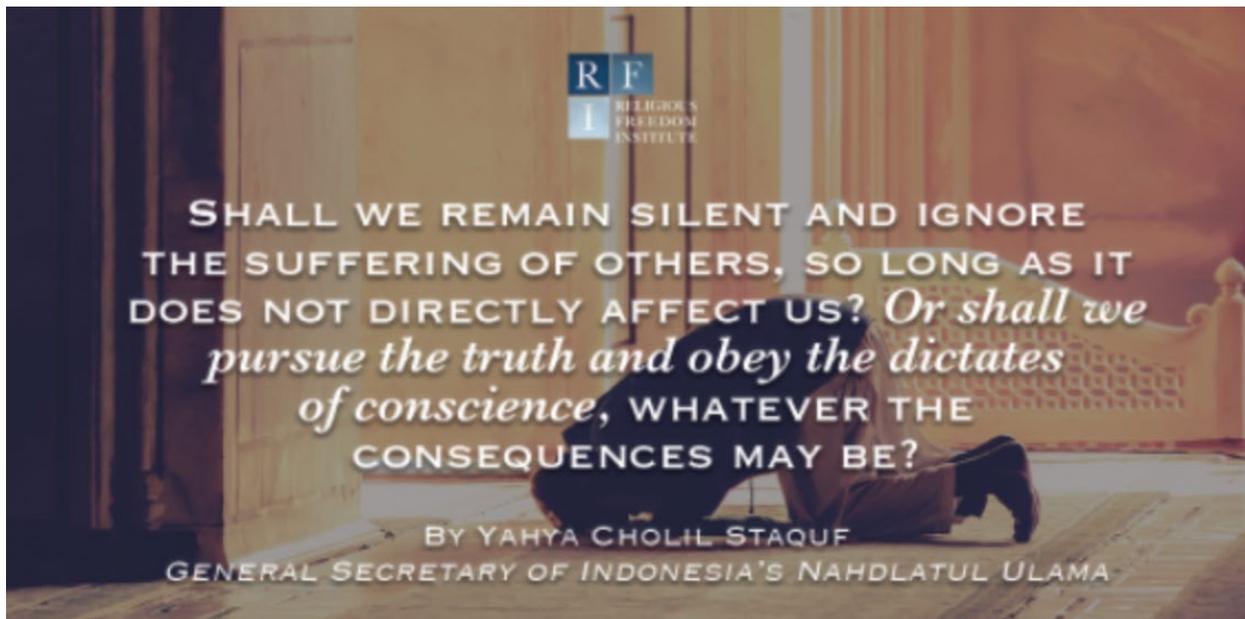
In an [essay](#) recently published in Indonesia's top foreign affairs journal, Timothy Shah, RFI's Vice President for Strategy and International Research and Director of its South and Southeast Asia Action Team, discusses the global impact and influence of the world's largest Muslim organization, the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). Specifically, Shah notes how the NU is spearheading a mass, grassroots, multi-faith campaign to revitalize the post-World War II rules-based international order and forge a positive role for Islam upon the world stage. The centerpiece of this [campaign](#) is a movement for what the NU's

spiritual leaders refer to as “Humanitarian Islam,” a form of the Islamic faith that is in sharp contrast to a harsh, repressive, and all-too-often violent understanding of Islam that has been promulgated by Middle Eastern autocrats for decades.

Shah’s essay features a detailed analysis of the global Humanitarian Islam movement, and is co-authored with Thomas Dinham...

[Continue Reading...](#)

From the RFI Blog



Yahya Cholil Staquf: Responding to a Fundamental Crisis Within Islam Itself

In an [article](#) published recently in *Public Discourse*, Yahya Cholil Staquf—distinguished Muslim scholar and General Secretary of Indonesia’s Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the world’s

largest Muslim organization—urges his fellow Muslims to strive to end systematic persecution of religious minorities in the Muslim-majority world.

Staquf begins the article by reflecting on the work and testimony of Stephen Rasche, so powerfully documented in Rasche’s book, *The Disappearing People*, which recounts the “calamitous fate of Iraq’s Christians.” Staquf then observes:

From sub-Saharan Africa to South and Southeast Asia, religious minorities often experience severe discrimination and violence inflicted by those who embrace a supremacist, ultraconservative interpretation of Islam that has been widely propagated in recent decades by Middle East states, including long-time US allies Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

[Continue reading...](#)