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Construction of PPP and PKS Thought in Understanding Terrorism

Atjih Sukaesih

Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau

Yudi Martha Nugraha

Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau

Kodarni

Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau

Gmail: atjih.sukaesih@uin-suska.ac.id

Abstract

This article specifically explains the construction of PPP and PKS's thinking in interpreting terrorism. These two parties are the largest Islamic parties in Indonesia and almost all of their supporters are Muslims. The qualitative research method used in selecting informants or subjects has been selected purposively based on their activities, with the consideration that those selected as informants can explore and articulate their experiences consciously in interviews conducted by the Researcher through written texts sent and received via Whatsapp and email. The conclusions from the results of this study are (1) the reality of terrorism is socially formed; (2) the reality of terrorism is expressed through language; (3) knowledge of terrorism is obtained through social processes; and (4) emphasizes real action with suicide bombings. PPP firmly stated that there are two main roots of the problem, namely the problem of religious and economic understanding. Meanwhile, PKS firmly believes that terrorism is caused by the motive of economic inequality. To judge the issue and actions of terrorism is left to the Government and religious experts who understand the Law/Regulations and religious affairs only, considering that they do not want to make statements that will harm the existence of the Party in the future. Their task as the largest Islamic Political Party in Indonesia is only to monitor, supervise and calm the unrest in society through their representatives in each branch and region by coordinating and providing understanding and knowledge about terrorism issues and actions.

Keywords : Construction of thought, PPP, PKS, terrorism

Introduction

Studies on terrorism in Indonesia have been conducted extensively by many researchers. Most of these studies focus on socio-cultural aspects and their relation to the role of individual perpetrators of terror acts in Indonesia. In its report, the International Crisis Group (ICG) identified Islamic movements that raised the theme of jihad based on the narrative that Muslims are under pressure and are victims of a conspiracy by the global Jewish Zionist movement.¹ Various bombing incidents that have occurred in Indonesia have made the issue of terrorism a relevant topic of discussion, while also creating a stereotype that Indonesia is one of the countries that is the center of terrorism activity and development.²

The understanding of terrorism as an extraordinary crime was first raised in the UN forum at the congress in Vienna, Austria, in 2000. At that time, the theme carried was "Crime Prevention and Handling of Perpetrators". Many countries, including Indonesia, feel the need to establish special treatment for actions that fall into the category of terrorism.³

In response to the threat of terrorism, the Indonesian government has taken a number of policy steps. One of them is the issuance of an anti-terrorism law in 2003, which was later revised in 2018. In addition, the government established the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), a special agency that handles terrorism issues. Not only that, through the Indonesian National Police (POLRI), the government also established the Special Detachment 88 (Densus 88), which has great authority in handling terrorism cases. Densus 88 is authorized to arrest suspected terrorists even if only based on initial evidence from intelligence reports. This unit also has the authority to detain suspected terrorists for 7 x 24 hours, in accordance with the "Anti-Terrorism Act," which has a longer detention period than other criminal law cases.

Responding to the increasingly massive news coverage of terrorism in the media, PPP and PKS activists are trying to erase the negative stigma that is detrimental to certain parties. This can be seen from the statements they convey in press conferences and press releases related to the issue and acts of terrorism. This step is also an effort to suppress the development of radicalism that is increasingly spreading among parties involved in national sectoral issues. The media often modifies this issue to form public opinion that sometimes deviates from the facts, especially among militant Islamic groups who want the implementation of Islamic law comprehensively.

Such actions are actually the responsibility of all parties, especially political parties which are the main pillars of democracy and are considered the pulse of a nation. For PPP and PKS, the issue of terrorism is also a crucial issue because it often brings the impression of discrediting Islam. In responding to this issue, both parties

1. Hilmy, *Membaca Agama: Islam Sebagai Realitas Terkonstruksi*. (Yogyakarta; Kanisius, 2009), p. 23-31

2. Akaha, *Terrorisme dan Konspirasi Anti Islam*, (Jakarta: Pustaka Al Kautsar, 2002), p. 43-49

3. Muhtar, "Eksistensi Densus 88: Analisis Evaluasi dan Solusi Terkait Wacana Pembubaran Densus 88", *Jurnal Supremasi*, Vol. 3, No. 123-138. <https://ejournal.uin-suka.ac.id/syariah/Supremasi/article/viewFile/1953/1422> (2014)

have an approach and policy that is in accordance with their respective party management.

When a party chooses to hold a public press conference, especially when being interviewed or covered by the media, there are usually a number of considerations to consider, (1) Aligning understanding among party cadres to have consistent answers when faced with questions from the general public, constituents, or the media, (2) Ensuring that the principles and mindset of members remain in line with the party platform, both PPP and PKS, considering that the party's organizational structure includes administrators and members at the provincial, district, and sub-district levels, (3) Anticipating the possibility of party cadres being involved in terrorism issues or potential infiltration by outside parties trying to create a negative impression of the party, (4) Managing emotions as a Muslim so as not to be easily provoked by terrorism issues that often discredit Islam globally and create negative stereotypes, thus avoiding statements that are detrimental to the party, (5) Monitoring the development of issues through consolidation discussions and socialization to find opportunities to convey statements or actions that benefit the party. This is important because the issue of terrorism has become a major concern for the people of Indonesia, the Southeast Asian region, and the international world.

The phenomenon that has been explained previously inspired the researcher to conduct a study entitled "Construction of PPP and PKS Thoughts in Understanding Terrorism." This study is based on several main reasons. *First*, this study aims to understand how PPP and PKS activists construct meaning about terrorism based on their experiences and knowledge. As political parties based on Islam, both PPP and PKS have an important role in providing a clear understanding of the meaning of terrorism. This is necessary because terrorism has become a phenomenon that has not only attracted the attention of Western society and the United States but has also become a major topic in Indonesia. *Second*, this study aims to contribute ideas to political parties, Islamic community organizations, or the media that are often used as a means of political communication for PPP and PKS activists. With the right approach, it is hoped that these parties can handle issues that are detrimental to Muslims more effectively. This approach also aims to reduce anxiety and panic that can trigger counterproductive statements, such as showing partisanship in the conflict or appearing indifferent to the situation. In fact, the responsibility of activists is to contribute to solving problems constructively.

Theoretical Basis

Social Construction

According to Berger and Luckman (1990) social construction begins by explaining social reality through the distinction between the concepts of "reality" and "knowledge." Reality refers to a quality found in various realities, whose existence is recognized as something independent and does not depend on the will of the

individual. Meanwhile, knowledge is defined as the belief that the reality is real and has clear and specific characteristics.⁴

Conceptual Basis

James Adams (Mohamad, 2002) explains terrorism in a long definition as an act or threat of physical violence carried out by individuals or groups with political goals. This action can be aimed at supporting or opposing existing power, to shock, paralyze, or intimidate a wider target group than the immediate victim.⁵

Terrorism often involves groups that seek to overthrow a particular regime, voice the grievances of a national group, or disrupt the prevailing international political order. Paul Wilkinson⁶ defines terrorism as an act of terror that is systematically designed and organized by a particular group. Political terrorism, according to him, has several characteristics, namely, (1) It is a form of intimidation carried out with the aim of forcing a particular party, (2) Using organized murder and destruction to achieve certain goals, (3) Victims are not the main goal, but rather a means to create psychological warfare, with the principle of "kill one person to frighten a thousand", (4) The targets of terrorist acts are specifically selected, carried out in secret, but aimed at gaining public attention, (5) The message of such acts is usually quite clear, although the perpetrators do not always reveal their identities, (6) Perpetrators are often driven by strong ideologies, such as fighting in the name of religion and humanity.

Terrorism can be studied from various disciplines, such as sociology, criminology, political science, psychiatry, international relations, and law. This makes it difficult to formulate a definition that can cover all dimensions and aspects of terrorism. However, there are several main characteristics that can be identified, namely, (a) Exploitation of fear or horror in humans, (b) Use or threat of use of physical violence, (c) The presence of an unexpected element of surprise; and (d) Have specific goals and objectives.

Based on various views on the definition of terrorism, it can generally be formulated that terrorism is a form of organized crime that has a wide network in various forms and types. This action is driven by various motivations and specific goals that are planned in secret, using carefully designed tools or methods, so that objects such as humans, buildings, or public facilities that are the targets of crime can be attacked precisely and measurably.

Research Method

This study focuses on two major Islamic-based political parties in Indonesia, namely the United Development Party (PPP) and the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS).

⁴. Peter Berger & Thomas Luckman, *Tafsiran Sosial Atas Kenyataan Risalah Tentang Sosiologi Pengetahuan*. Jakarta: LP3ES, 1990), p. 1

⁵. Samela Victor Mohamad, *Terorisme dan Tata Dunia Baru*, (Jakarta: Pusat Pengkajian dan Pelayanan Informasi Sekretariat Jenderal DPR-RI, 2002), p. 106

⁶. Abdul Wahid, *Kejahatan Terorisme Perspektif Agama, HAM dan Hukum*, (Jakarta: Retika Aditama, 2004), p. 22-40

Both parties are largely supported by the Muslim community. According to the researcher, it is important to examine how the PPP and PKS build their understanding of the issue of terrorism. The focus of this study is to explore the understanding and views of Islamic political party activists, especially from the PPP and PKS, who actively provide comments on the development of the issue of terrorism or are officially appointed by the party to clarify stereotypes related to the issue.

In selecting informants or research subjects, a purposive approach was used based on their activities. This consideration was taken because the selected informants were expected to be able to express and explain their experiences consciously in interviews. Interviews were conducted through written texts sent and received via the WhatsApp application and email.

This study aims to explore the construction of the thoughts of Islamic parties, in this case PPP and PKS, by involving several activists who are able to tell their experiences, both before and after being involved in politics. If the process of selecting informants in the field encounters obstacles, for example due to the busyness of the informant or other reasons, then the study will be continued with the snowball sampling method. In this method, researchers will use recommendations from initial informants to find the next informant, and this process continues sequentially until the information obtained is considered adequate or saturated.

The research subjects who become the main informants or primary data sources, which Creswell calls participants, have the following criteria: (1) Is an administrator of an Islamic political party, namely PPP or PKS, both at the central and regional levels, with active experience of at least one management period; (2) There is one representative from the chairman's element, as well as other PPP and PKS administrators who can represent.

Observations of key informants were conducted by observing their activities, especially on social media, where they were often involved in press conferences or issued press releases relevant to the research data needs. In addition to key informants, interviews were also conducted with several other individuals who acted as supporting or additional informants. They came from various institutions that were related to Islamic movements and terrorism issues, such as the Main Expert Staff from the Presidential Staff Office (KSP) of the Republic of Indonesia; Military and intelligence observers from the Department of Defense and Security of the Republic of Indonesia; Political communication experts at the Central level.

Result And Discussion

Seeing the situation developing in the country, PPP and PKS activists, as Islamic-based political parties, are trying to take constructive steps to prevent misunderstandings related to terrorism issues and actions. These various efforts can be summarized broadly by researchers as follows:

- 1) Listening to views or concerns from the perpetrators of terrorism who were caught and former members of Jemaah Islamiyah persuasively. Open dialogue was held involving party administrators from the central to regional levels, to ensure a uniform and concrete understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism based on direct explanations from the parties involved.
- 2) Holding closed and limited discussions by involving Densus 88, intelligence, government, and religious figures to discuss and evaluate strategies for eradicating terrorism.
- 3) Holding a closed press conference with the mass media so that news about terrorism does not harm or corner Islam unilaterally.
- 4) Coordinating clarifications and official statements from the party, both at the central and regional levels. Every response to the issues that occur, including the issue of terrorism, must be carefully designed so as not to be impulsive or emotional, in order to maintain the good name of the party.
- 5) Conducting planned scientific studies to analyze and anticipate terrorist movements, by involving national and international institutions or organizations that monitor terrorist activities in Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the world. This effort also aims to prevent members or supporters of Islamic parties, both from PPP and PKS, from becoming targets for recruitment by terrorist groups. Therefore, an integrated information and communication network was formed between the central and regional administrators.

The above conclusions are formulated based on the researcher's analysis of the interview text, both oral and written, as well as the researcher's ability to interpret the answers logically. This research was conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic, where conditions did not allow for in-depth direct interviews. Most of the data were obtained through personal communication, such as WhatsApp messages, WhatsApp video calls, and emails. These limitations, although challenging, can still be overcome by the researcher by maintaining moral and professional responsibility to complete the research according to the agreed contract.

According to the PKS DPP Management⁷:

"....Terrorism and radicalization movements are often rooted in economic inequality, injustice, and gaps in access to various opportunities that should be available to all levels of society, which leads to inequality in welfare. If people are given fair and equal access to welfare, then radical and terrorist actions can be suppressed. Therefore, the Government needs to put more emphasis on efforts to maintain harmony between Muslims, instead of creating hostility due to existing differences. If there are differences, the Government should seek solutions so that no party feels disadvantaged. This solution can be achieved by seeking the root of the economic problem and achieving it gradually, ensuring that every level of society feels cared for and involved in national economic

⁷. Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB.

development. Because, we know that perpetrators of terrorism often come from groups of people with weak economic conditions...."

Meanwhile, according to Effendi,⁸ put forward:

"...A wise attitude is needed in objectively seeing that one of the main routes of the spread of the terrorist movement is the development of religious understanding that considers violence as something legitimate and justifiable, and prioritizes an attitude of intolerance by manipulating the truth. Similar phenomena can also be found in countries such as Sri Lanka or Myanmar, where non-Muslim groups are also involved in acts of terrorism. We are concerned, because as the largest Islamic political party in Indonesia, the PPP should not rush to judge or only follow the opinions of a cleric or religious expert."

Attention to Islam should be the responsibility of Islamic-based political parties, Islamic organizations, and the mass media that often serve as channels of political communication for PPP and PKS activists. They should be able to provide constructive criticism to address issues that are detrimental to Muslims as a whole. They should not feel worried or panicked to the point of issuing counter-productive clarifications or statements, such as supporting the conflict or appearing to ignore the situation. In fact, it is the responsibility of activists to find the right solution to the problem.

Terrorist acts, such as bombings and suicide bombings, are not only a threat of terror, but have also disrupted the stability of national defense. Several factors that influence this problem come from various sectors, such as politics, economy, social, education, and religion. Terrorist acts can occur in public or private spaces. Universities have also begun to build networks to address this. In the perspective of symbolic interactionism, Blumer (1900-1987) argued that humans live amidst symbols that can influence them and are visualized. Meanwhile, Mead (1863-1931) distinguished between natural signs and meaningful symbols. This perspective reveals that religious symbols that encourage the spirit of jihad can actually cause conflict, because these symbols function as representations of ideology and defense of beliefs.⁹

Effendi,¹⁰ say :

"...As an Islamic-based political party, PPP feels it has a moral responsibility to correct the understanding of jihad used by terrorist groups to justify their acts of terror. PPP offers alternative solutions to reduce the extreme understanding of the concept of jihad used by terrorists. In the perspective of dialectical theory, there are thesis and antithesis. Terrorist movements can be seen as the antithesis of the main thesis, which includes the understanding of religion, ideology, state and territorial power, and economic interests. Therefore, acts of terrorism are divided into four types of antithesis, namely

⁸. Rusli Effendi, Head of the Central PPP DPP, answers to interview questions were made via written text on Whatsapp on 02/11/2021 at 10.22 WIB.

⁹. George Ritzer, *Sociological Theory*. (New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2011)

¹⁰. Interview with Rusli Effendi, Head of the Central PPP DPP, answers to interview questions were conducted via written text on Whatsapp on 02/11/2021 at 10.22 WIB.

those related to religion, ideology, state/territory power, and economy. For example, terrorism related to economic interests can be seen in the destructive movements carried out by drug cartel rulers in Latin America, such as those led by the famous figure Pablo Escobar. Terrorism related to territorial control can be seen in several separatist movements in Sri Lanka, Spain, Latin America, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Meanwhile, ideological terrorism can be seen in the struggle of Maoist guerrillas in Tibet. Finally, terrorism related to religion can be seen in acts of terror that occurred in Ireland, Iraq, Japan, and Indonesia, which often involved bombing targets. In Indonesia, most terrorist movements are based on religious understanding, where terrorists often consider their actions as a holy struggle or jihad fii sabilillah in Islamic terminology. Although all Muslims believe in the obligation of jihad, the difference lies in how it is implemented and understood... ”

Zulkarnain,¹¹ put forward:

“...Regardless of the reasons, acts of terrorism cannot be justified by any religious adherent, especially if the act is associated with religion. Terrorists often disguise themselves by wearing typical religious attributes, but even though they wear clothes that are identical to a particular religion, it does not mean that they fully represent the teachings of that religion.

He also revealed that Law Number 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism gives full authority to the authorities to take steps in combating terrorism in Indonesia. To prevent the recurrence of acts of terror, the root causes of terrorism need to be investigated. The government should be more proactive in strengthening terrorism prevention and control programs with a persuasive approach, working with various educational institutions, including religious institutions, Islamic boarding schools, and other related institutions that are competent in providing an understanding of the dangers of radicalization that can develop into terrorism. This paraphrase conveys the same message, but with changes in sentence structure and different word usage.

Follow-up interview via written text via email with the PKS DPP Management,¹²:

“....Three important things that need to be considered in the government's efforts to deal with terrorism are as follows: first, understanding that Indonesia, as a country with the largest Muslim majority population in the world, should react proportionally to any injustice that occurs in the Islamic world. This reaction can be done through bilateral and multilateral diplomatic communication, as well as non-diplomatic channels. Second, the Government

¹¹. Interview with Zulkarnain, Chairman of the PPP Pekanbaru DPC and Member of the Pekanbaru City DPRD, on 02/20/2021 at 10.21 WIB in Pekanbaru.

¹². Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB.

must systematically facilitate the holding of scientific forums that focus on teaching moderate Islam in religious education in Indonesia, by highlighting the latent dangers of terrorism. Third, the Government needs to monitor and evaluate the activities of Indonesian students who are in Middle Eastern countries, which are often considered training centers for terrorist movements.

Follow-up interview via written text via email with the PKS DPP Management¹³ say:

"...it is very regrettable that the Government has taken steps to issue Government Regulation (PP) Number 77 of 2019 concerning the Prevention of Criminal Acts of Terrorism because it is considered too naive if it is intended to minimize the terrorist movement in the country, because the material in the PP after being studied does not at all or has not yet touched on the basic issues that are the main basis for the occurrence of acts of terrorism itself..."

This is an unforgivable naivety, if analogized, do not eradicate something very small with such extraordinary weapons, or with the analogy of catching mosquitoes, it is appropriate to use mosquito repellent, do not use a truckload of Baygon. The mandatory task for the Government is to invite all competent related parties to find a solution to eradicate the terrorist movement.

On the other hand, Effendi¹⁴ put forward:

"...Improvements are needed as input to the Government and the DPR to make a Presidential Decree (Keppres) as a derivative of the Anti-Terrorism Law, as a reference so that the Government and authorities can freely prevent acts of terrorism, or in other words it is intended that the Presidential Decree in the Law consults with the DPR regarding the handling that will be carried out by the security forces, so the Government, in this case the President, does not need to waste time asking for DPR approval again to determine urgent matters in the Law, giving full authority to the TNI so that it can be involved at any time. It is intended that with the enactment of this Law, more prominent soft power can be carried out, considering that preventive measures can be carried out through regulations by the related legal apparatus and are competent in carrying out preventive measures.

Follow-up interview via written text via email with the PKS DPP Management¹⁵:

"...It is estimated that there are more than 700 (seven hundred) who are exposed to extreme ideologies and actions and may have gone on jihad to Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria. The perpetrators of terrorism are those who have the potential to have a terrorist ideology, because of the binding and radically rooted doctrine

¹³. Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB.

¹⁴. Interview with Rusli Effendi, Head of the Central PPP DPP, answers to interview questions were conducted via written text on Whatsapp on 02/11/2021 at 10.22 WIB.

¹⁵. Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB.

by considering the homeland as 'darul harbi' (war zone). The government should conduct intensive communication with Islamic mass organizations and educational institutions/Islamic boarding schools to improve groups with extreme ideologies, because so far it has been conditioned that Islamic boarding schools are warehouses of moderate Islam, and this is a strategic step as a dialogue material for citizens who have been exposed to radicalism. Preventive applied steps really need to be equipped with qualified religious knowledge, so it is mandatory to have complete Islamic knowledge to provide awareness of a comprehensive religious understanding, as the government synergistically involves Islamic mass organizations, educational institutions/Islamic boarding schools to ensure that the police and TNI and Polri do not work alone.

Zulkarnain,¹⁶ stated that:

"...The root of the main problem of terrorism is caused by the sense of injustice received by society towards various government policies so far, so this should be a serious concern for the government in seeking alternative policies to prevent terrorist behavior. If abroad the radicalism ideology was born as a resistance to secularism, it is predicted that many Muslims have the wrong understanding about jihad and the caliphate. who consider jihad to be fardhu ain and in jihad it is permissible to kill.

Zulkarnain added,¹⁷ say :

"...Talking about terrorism, the thing that must be understood is first, the Government should be more responsive and it is very necessary to persuasively approach the group that is the perpetrator of terror to provide understanding and knowledge, in this case it needs to be noted that if the motive is religion, then it is necessary to provide a comprehensive understanding of religion. Second, if the motive is economic or social inequality, then the Government must provide a serious solution because handling acts of terrorism must not be inferior to terrorist ideology for any reason or justification, the terrorist movement must be fought, so that the people can feel the comfort and security of living in the country without being gripped by fear and worry because they feel their safety is threatened at all times.

Effendi,¹⁸ put forward:

"...As an activist of the Islamic Political Party, namely PPP, it is truly a concern that must be seriously watched out for regarding the impact of the dangers of terrorism and intolerance in the country.

¹⁶ Interview with Zulkarnain, Chairman of the PPP Pekanbaru DPC and Member of the Pekanbaru City DPRD, on 02/20/2021 at 10.21 WIB in Pekanbaru.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Interview with Rusli Effendi, Head of the Central PPP DPP, answers to interview questions were conducted via written text on Whatsapp on 02/11/2021 at 10.22 WIB.

Follow-up interview via written text via email with the PKS DPP Management¹⁹:

"...Quoting the statement of former Minister of Religion Fahrurrozi who said that one of the characteristics of the spread of terrorism is the Arabic language, although it has been corrected by us in the PKS ranks from the Center to the regions, the stigma that has not been corrected or revoked by the Minister of Religion's mandate seems 'misleading.' What needs to be criticized and noted here is that there are many Arabic languages that actually provide many vocabularies in Pancasila. The word 'fair' remains in the Second and Fifth Principles, then the word 'people' remains in the Fourth and Fifth Principles, 'adab' in the Second Principle, and 'hikmat', 'musyawarah', and 'wakil' in the Fourth Principle, even though all of them are borrowed from Arabic.

Terrorism and radicalism are contrary to democracy whose symbol is in parliament. Meanwhile, parliament in Indonesia, namely MPR, DPR and DPD still use basic terms that are absorbed from Arabic. These terms include "assembly", "deliberation", "council", "representative", "people", and "region".

If there is a statement that increasing the use of Arabic is referred to as one of the characteristics of the spread of terrorism, whether we realize it or not, it could be a form of 'terror' against Pancasila and the Indonesian Parliament, many of whose expressions are absorbed from Arabic. Criticism and clarification of this should be based on truth, and should be addressed rationally and critically, not framing or Islamophobia.

"If the spread of terrorism is linked to the spread of Arabic, then what about the fact of the spread of acts of terrorism in Indonesia and in the world that are not linked to Arabic?"

"Does the OPM that terrorizes the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia in Papua speak Arabic? Or did the Dutch/VOC who terrorized and colonized Indonesia for centuries also speak Arabic? Also white supremacist terrorism (Ku Klux Klan) in America and in New Zealand and Canada?"

Also the terror of the Israeli state against Palestine? Is it also related to Arabic?
NO.

"...This is the Islamophobia behind the accusations against the Arabic language because radicalism and terrorism are not related to Arabic or any other language, but the understanding of radicalism and terrorism is still rejected, regardless of the language used.

Most non-Muslim Arabs speak Arabic, but it is acknowledged that in principle Arabic is better known as the language of the Quran, especially with the many Islamic boarding schools and Islamic universities, whether acknowledged or not

¹⁹. Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB.

Arabic is increasingly spreading because it is applied in everyday life in educational environments/Islamic boarding schools.

It should be understood that the spread of Arabic in Indonesia is due to the increasing number of prospective hajj and umrah pilgrims, as well as religious studies on TV or religious study groups. Strengthening Indonesia's political and economic relations with Arabic-speaking countries in the Gulf/Middle East is also another factor. This fact clearly implies that Arabic has been accepted and spread internationally to many organizations at the global level. In fact, Arabic is one of the official languages of the United Nations (UN) and the International Parliamentary Union (IPU).

In addition to the government level, Arabic is also used in international business activities. Thus, many businessmen from abroad also study Arabic, because many Arab countries are major players in the global economy, so many businessmen even study Arabic, even Arabic is currently ranked in the Power Language Index as the fifth most important world language, and that is certainly not because Arabic is a factor in the spread of terrorism.

In this regard, the community and the younger generation should not be provoked and suspicious of each other with various stigmas, including the issue of Arabic, because this can divide the Indonesian nation, considering the heroes and fathers of the nation who did not have a phobia of foreign languages including Arabic, such as, KH A Dahlan, KH Hasyim Asy'ari, H Agus Salim, KH Mas Mansoer, KH Kahar Mudzakir, Ki Bagus Hadikusumo, KH Wahid Hasyim, M Natsir, National Hero figures who are known to be experts in Arabic.

Follow-up interview via written text via email with the PKS DPP Management²⁰

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"...There are two letters and verses in the Koran and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW which are often misinterpreted and become justifications for being radical and even carrying out acts of terrorism. The two letters in question are Al-Baqarah verse 191 and Al-Maidah verse 44.

Verse 191 broadly teaches Muslims to fight, expel, and even if necessary kill infidels wherever they may be found. But the context of the verse is when in a state of war where the principle is, "kill or be killed".

The verse in the letter Allah SWT teaches Muslims not to be hesitant in war. Do not just stay silent, fold your arms, but chase the enemy. This understanding is interpreted by certain groups of people because they only read the translation and then consider Indonesia a battlefield. The government, president, army,

²⁰. Written text in an email from the Central PKS DPP, answering interview questions on 03/21/2021 at 13.51 WIB. This narrative is documentation of the PKS DPP in conducting investigative reporting on the Leaders of Jamaah Islamiyah.

police, and non-Muslims are considered enemies. This is coupled with the hadith of the Messenger of Allah narrated by Bukhari and Muslim, that "I was sent, ordered to kill people until they testify".

At first glance, the sound of the hadith describes the figure of the Prophet Muhammad as a sadist. Wanting to spread Islam through war and blood. In fact, what is meant is that this message only applies to polytheists who fight Muslims, not all polytheists, because there are several other hadiths in which the Prophet actually forbids fighting women, children, priests, and weak people.

There is also another hadith which states, "I was sent on this earth to perfect morals".

"...Misconceptions also apply in interpreting Surah Al-Maidah verse 44 which reads, "Whoever does not decide with what Allah has revealed, then they are the disbelievers."

As a result, all non-Muslims are considered enemies. Even the President is considered an infidel because he is considered not to uphold Islamic law. Muslims who are different from him are also considered infidels. This is the takfiri ideology, easily accusing others of being infidels. But this is not something new, it has been around since the Prophet Muhammad died.

Dear,²¹ put forward:

*"...The government actually has three reference frameworks in dealing with acts of terror and acts of terrorism in the country. **First**, is preventive approaches which are preventive efforts before an unwanted incident occurs. These preventive approaches can be carried out by two elements, namely the Government and non-Government. For non-Government, it can be done by increasing the role of religious leaders to spread true and positive values so that there are no misinterpretations in understanding religious teachings. **Second**, the operation of action when the terror act is taking place. If this stage occurs, then the preventive approaches that I mentioned earlier do not run optimally because there has been a terror act or handling of potential terror acts.*

Third, rehabilitation, aims to erode the doctrine of radicalism that exists in the perpetrators of terror by providing the right understanding. At this stage, a real example of the success of the rehabilitation program can be seen in the Bali bomb convict Umar Patek who realized that his actions in the past were wrong.

The government has complete legal instruments and strategies to dismantle terror cells to their roots, including through a hard approach. There is no place to hide for all parties involved in terrorism in Indonesia, all will be dismantled,

²¹. Interview with Susaningtyas Nefo Kertopati, Intelligence and Military Observer, Ministry of Defense and Security of the Republic of Indonesia, via Whatsapp in written text, on July 15, 2021 at 19.41 WIB.

law enforcement efforts will be carried out firmly, fairly and as effectively as possible.

Terrorism is a common enemy of all Indonesian people, because the threat of terrorism is real, close, and dangerous, so it is urged to stop baseless, irresponsible conspiracy opinions that actually worsen the situation.

Prasetyo,²² confirms that:

"...The task of preventing the spread of radicalism in this country must be a shared responsibility. Communication experts play a major role in preventing this by encouraging communication experts to take part in preventing the spread of radicalism or intolerant attitudes in Indonesia. If left unchecked, intolerant radicalism can influence the mindset and thought patterns of society.

Terrorism in Indonesia applies massive communication carried out by perpetrators in conveying radical intolerant narratives. Groups carrying this ideology routinely spread their messages through various channels. Some do it directly face to face or build narratives through social media.

The goal is only one, the spread must be intensive to influence society, especially the younger generation, to be consumed by the radical narrative. Finally, the younger generation will be influenced and create their own ideas that are defined as acts of terror.

Building literacy and education in the community about the dangers of this ideology must be carried out and can be communicated well to the community as a form of awareness. This communication is expected to reach various groups in society, because the core of the power of preventing terrorism lies in community participation. This step requires a communication process that must be maintained well with the community, because Indonesia really needs strong solidarity to prevent the symptoms of terrorism.

Ngabalin,²³ say that :

"...The crime of terrorism is an extraordinary crime (extraordinary crime) and therefore requires handling with extraordinary measures (extraordinary measures).

After the enactment of Law Number 5 of 2018, an amendment to Law Number 15 of 2003 concerning the eradication of criminal acts of terrorism, terrorism is defined as an act that uses violence or threats of violence that creates an atmosphere of terror or widespread fear, which can cause mass casualties, and/or cause damage or destruction to strategic vital objects, the environment,

²². Interview with Bambang Dwi Prasetyo via Whatsapp, in written text with Bambang Dwi Prasetyo, Political Communication Expert, UNIBRAW Malang, July 23, 2021 at 10.47 WIB.

²³. Ali Mochtar Ngabalin, Main Expert Staff of the Presidential Staff Office (KSP) of the Republic of Indonesia, via Whatsapp interview with written text on June 15, 2021 at 09.27 WIB.

public facilities, or international facilities with ideological, political and security disturbance motives.

The development of terrorism crimes in Indonesia is very worrying and threatens the life of the nation and state. This can be seen from the characteristics of the development of terrorism as follows, first, terrorists and terrorist attacks in Indonesia show the connection between local militant networks and international networks. Second, terrorists utilize ideologies and beliefs related to religious teachings that are interpreted in a narrow and limited way. Third, terrorists utilize modern technology, both in terms of collecting funds to carry out acts of terror and in spreading radical terrorist ideology widely. Fourth, the current modus operandi of terrorist attacks is still dominated by violent actions, whether in the form of suicide bombings, car bombs, and armed attacks on foreign officials and symbols as well as public facilities.

In every Regency/City in each region in Indonesia, we plan to mass install permanent billboards about the dangers of radicalism and terrorism. This reflects that the Government is not half-hearted in eradicating this very disturbing movement.

Conclusion

PPP firmly stated that there are two main root problems, namely religious understanding and economic conditions. On the other hand, PKS believes that terrorism is caused by economic disparity. To judge the problem and acts of terrorism, they leave this to the Government and religious experts who have a deep understanding of regulations and religious issues, because they do not want to make statements that could harm the Party's image in the future. As the largest Islamic political party in Indonesia, their role is more in supervising, guarding, and reducing tensions that occur in society through representatives in branches and regions, with coordination and counseling regarding understanding and knowledge of terrorism issues. During the research, several findings were found that can be used as constructive suggestions for combating terrorism with a preventive and constructive approach. Thus, these suggestions are based on the reality that occurs in society, so that the author provides several recommendations that can be preventive steps in overcoming deficiencies in combating terrorism.

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