ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Disputing Radicalism and Terrorism from the Perspective of Monotheistic Religions (With an Emphasis on Indonesian Society)

Mohammad Zaki Amami[1*], Prof. Budi Setyono[2], Dr. Annur Rofiq[3]

1*. *Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia, (Corresponding Author)*

2. *Prof. in Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia, bssetyono@gmail.com*

3. *Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia, annur_rofiq@yahoo.com*

ARTICL INFO	ABSTRACT
  	SUBJECT AND OBJECTIVES: This research is aimed to analyze the factors of radicalism and terrorism action that was happening in Indonesia, it is obviously important because the result can be used by the Indonesian government, civil societies and other countries of the world to prevent the spreading of radicalism and terrorism ideologies. *METHOD AND FINDING*: In order to get reliable and valid data analysis the Observation-qualitative research methodology has been used to analyze documents, books, articles which relates to the research topic and supported by The Holy Quran Verses and traditions on Religious ethical context. The hypotheses of these research show that there is close relationship between radicalism and terrorism action and the fake teachings. Based on the research, the act of radicalism and terrorism is not the part of Monotheistic Religions teachings, but occurred because of misunderstanding in comprehending the Monotheistic Religions teachings and Quranic verses. Moreover, peace is the main principle of Monotheistic Religions and specially the religion of Islam; because it is rooted in human nature and of course conducting war in Islam is an exception in the case of oppression. *CONCLUSION*: Several options that can be applied to solve radicalism and terrorism problems in Indonesia society and other countries of the world are by understanding the root of radicalism and terrorism, de-radicalization and de-terrorism of Religions radical follower, the use of counseling method in contradiction of radicalism and terrorism and controlling hoax in social media.

* Corresponding Author:
Email: *mohzakiamami@gmail.com*
ORCID: *0000-0002-1225-5938*

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Introduction

Indonesia is a country that nowadays faces various threats, obstacles and challenges both from inside and outside the country. One such threat is the increasing of radicalism and terrorism action that occurred. According to data from LSI (Indonesian Survey Institute) there is an increasing trend of radicalism and terrorism acts during the last 3 years due to several factors such as intolerance, corruption, radical ideology etc.

Research on this case is very important because the acts of radicalism and terrorism have caused a lot of negative impacts and unrest inside Indonesian people.

It can only be anticipated earlier by cooperation, collaboration and communication among various parties in society, such as central government, regional government, community organizations and family. In spite of that, Indonesia is a big country that consists of various ethnic, cultural and religion that need security and safety condition so that the developmental process can run smoothly and swiftly. Therefore, various acts of radical and terrorism that occur must be observed and given special attention to find solutions.

Specifically, this study is aimed to answer what are the main causes of radical and terror actions that generally occurred in Indonesia and how does the appropriate preventive actions to avoid the similar incident?

Research Issues

1. Objectives

- Analyzing the various objectives of radicals and terrorists in different regions in Indonesia and other countries of the world.
- Comprehending the potential factors causing changes in perpetrators behaviors such as their ideology, media, world events, social issues, etc.
- Knowing the sources and activities of organizations, radicalism and terrorism networks in Indonesia and other countries of the world.
- Counteracting the spread of radicalism and terrorism ideologies that are harmful to Indonesian society and other countries of the world.

Stimulate discussions and research from the standpoint of Religious ethics to solve problems in human societies.

2. Questions

- What are the kinds of radical and terror actions occurred in Indonesia and other countries of the world?
- What is the background causes of the acts of radical and terror occurred in Indonesia and other countries of the world?
- What are the purposes of radical and terror actions commonly occurred in Indonesia and

other countries of the world?

- What are the trigger factors of radical ideology to easily develop in Indonesia and other countries of the world?

- What are the appropriate solutions to anticipate the expansion of radicalism and terrorism Ideology based on Religious ethic point of view?

3. Hypotheses

- The act of radicalism and terrorism in Indonesia and other countries of the world is the result of the process of spreading radical ideology.

- There are positive relationship between

the ease of disseminating radical ideologies and social media freedom in Indonesia and other countries of the world.

- Radical ideology can be prevented by conveying Religious teachings that accordance with Religious ethics originating from genuine teachings of the Prophet's family.

4. Advantages

- The results of this study can be used as a reference by various authorities, educators, parents and especially the central government of Indonesia and other countries of the world to take

appropriate policies and actions to eradicate the seeds of radicalism and terrorism.

- Preventing the development of radicalism and terrorism and intolerance in Indonesia and other countries of the world to strengthen nations unity and integrity.

- Stimulate and expand research and study in the field of Religious ethics for other researchers and scientists.

Research Background

There are many studies related to radicalism and terrorism in Indonesia; such as:

- *Hwang (2018)* in "Why Terrorist Quit?", tried to explore primary information from terrorists in Indonesia who had realized their mistakes and became anti-terrorism agents.

- A study entitled "Terrorism before and after 9/11" by *Smith and Zeigler (2017)*, this has been done in this regard. Authors states that there is an increasing trend in terrorism in the last 15 years due to conflating terrorist activity with insurgency.

- Another study entitled "Ancaman Virus Terrorisme" by *Ramelan (2017)* focused on intelligence observations of causes related to terrorism that occurred in the international world and in

Indonesia such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

- "Pemberantasan Terorisme" by *Mardenis (2013)* where He offered the concept of eradicating terrorism through the creation of anti-terrorism laws at both National and International levels.

- Another study entitled "Dari Radikalisme menuju Terorisme" (From Radicalism to Terrorism) designed by the *Setara institute team (2012)* focused on various radical Islamic organizations in Central Java Province using qualitative and quantitative approaches.

- The other study by *Hamelin et al (2011)*, entitled "Trigger factors of terrorism", tried to provide an alternative solution to handling terrorism through Standardized regression analysis to analyze potential acts of terrorism.

- Next research entitled "The Four waves of Rebel Terror" by *Rappoport (2002)*, highlighted the wave of war on terrorism occurred during the last few decades as government.

Based on all those researches above, this research offering new solutions from the point of view of Religious ethics to fight and anticipate various forms of terrorism actions arising in Indonesian society. Moreover, we also combine the solutions based on Religious ethics perspectives which offer an effective solution

to contemporary problems that applicable for Indonesian society.

Furthermore, according to Crenshaw, Hamelin states that acts of terrorism are generally based on subjective interpretations of the world rather than objective reality. Perceptions of political, social and social conditions influence psychological conditions which are then reflected in acts of terror that endanger others. Therefore, Religious ethics knowledge theories can be used as one of the solutions to overcome the aggressive actions of terrorists through changing their perspectives. (*Ref: Hamelin et al, 2011: 226)*

Research Methodology

This research can be included into descriptive-qualitative research because there is no experiment conducted and no variables are manipulated. The major purpose is to make description of the real radicalism and terrorism action that happen in Indonesia and other countries of the world in order to find authentic solution based on Religious ethic perspectives.

Also in this research, observation on the data interview gathered from the Library research, Interview with experts, Seminars and discussions and Internet channel and websites.

Terrorism Definition based on Religious Sources

The discussion about terrorism in Islam actually has been widely occurred since the first time of its birth spread by the prophet Muhammad; because based on His teaching, Islam is a religion of peace, based on its name "Islam" is taken from the

word "silm" that can have two meanings "peace" and "submission", submission to Allah almighty and peace among human. *(Rizvi, 2006: 3-4)* It means, as shown by its name, Islam against the act of radical and terror and seeks to promote peace.

Bangura stated that inside holy Quran there are abundant verses which propose to peace and justice among humanity. These verses can be used as major sources and guidance in order to define that Monotheistic Religions, especially Islam, are opposed to radical and terrorist activities. *(Ref: Bangura, 2015)*

The Holy Quran says:

"Whoever goes aright, for his own soul does he go aright; and whoever goes astray, to its detriment only does he go astray: nor can the bearer of a burden bear the burden of another, nor do We chastise until We raise an apostle". *(Quran, 17: 15)*

According to Allameh Tabatabai in his "Commentary al-Mizan", this verse is in relation with person attitudes and behavior. If someone doing good deed then the benefit will be for himself and if he act wrongly, the effect will return to him. The act of terror is a matter of wrong doing to make or damaging people's life. The culprit tends to create worry by acting dangerously. So, based on this verse of Quran, any kinds of act that create damage or insecurity can be included as a means of terror. *(Tabatabai, 1997, Vol. 13: 77)*

Terrors in Indonesia from 2018-2019

1. Mako Brimob Terror Attack

On Tuesday night, May 8, 2018, there was a riot between terrorist inmates and the police in the Mako Brimob Detention Center, Kelapa Dua, Depok, West Java. There were five police officers who were brutally killed by nepiter, they were Bripda Wahyu Catur Pamungkas, Bripda Syukron Fadhli Idensos, Ipda Rospuji, Bripka Denny Setiadi and Briptu Fandi. Then, one prisoner was also killed in the incident. The incident was also accompanied by the hostage taking of a police officer on behalf of Bripka Irwan Sarjana. It took 36 hours for the police to free the hostages until finally 155 terrorist prisoners surrendered unconditionally.

2. Bombing at Three Churches in Surabaya

This tragedy struck in East Java, precisely on Sunday, May 13th, 2018 followed by suicide bombings in three churches at once in Surabaya. The explosion occurred in front of the Church of the Blameless Santa Maria on Jalan Ngagel Utara, GKI Diponegoro Surabaya, and Sawahan GPPS on Arjuno Street. At least, there were 13 people killed and 43 people reportedly injured due to the incident. The perpetrators are known to consist of six people and one family consisting of father, mother and four children. Two children are still toddlers.

3. Sidoarjo Bombing Attack

On the evening of Sunday, May 13th, 2018 a bomb explosion occurred in Block

B, 5th floor of Wonocolo flats, Sidoarjo, East Java. Three people were killed in the incident namely Anton Febryanto, Puspita Sari Anton's wife and 17-year-old Rita Aulia Rahman who is the son of Anton-Puspita's partner. The other three survived namely Ainur Rahman who brought his two younger sisters, each Faizah Putri and Garida Huda Akbar. All three have been referred for treatment at Bhayangkara Hospital.

4. Sibolga Bombing Attack

This incident began with the arrest of suspected terrorist alias Abu Hamzah in Sibolga, North Sumatra, on March 12th, 2019. He was allegedly affiliated with the terrorist network Jamaah Ansharut Daullah (JAD) affiliated with ISIS. He is thought to have been active in the network for six years. His role is as a bomb assembler and recruit people. When they were going to search he house on Jalan Cenderawasih, Sibolga City, an explosion occurred at the house and injured a police officer. The police finally chose to stay away from the house. Through a loudspeaker at the mosque, officials asked he wife who was in the house to surrender with her child. Besides he, the Special Detachment Team (Detachment) 88 of the National Police Headquarters is known to have arrested. At least seven suspected terrorists related to JAD Sibolga.

5. Kartasura Police Office Attack

Another suicide bomb explosion occurred at Kartasura Police Station, Sukoharjo, Central Java, June 3rd, 2019. The perpetrator is known as having the initials RA and has a job as a seller of fried foods. Based on police statements, RA has been exposed to radicalism. He is a suspected lone wolf terrorist or acting alone. According to police, based on a number of items of evidence found at his home, the bomb used was of the low explosive type. RA used the bomb on his waist while carrying out the action. The police stated that RA was still an amateur. This is because the authorities have not yet found a track record of the perpetrators' actions. RA also suffered

severe injuries due to its action. Apart from the perpetrators, there were no other victims.

6. Minister Stabbing

Former coordinating minister for politics, law and security (Menko Polhukam) Wiranto, was stabbed by suspected terrorists with the initials SA aka AR when he arrived at the Menes square, Pandeglang regency on October 10th, 2019. Not only Wiranto, police chief commissioner Daryanto was also stabbed while securing the perpetrators. According to the police, SA was only a sympathizer of JAD. SA is known to be the recruitment of one of JAD's central figures, namely Abu Zee. However, SA is not included in the network structure. In carrying out the action, the SA even invited his wife, FA, and children. From the results

of the examination of the married couple, it was known that each person used one weapon. After the incident, Detachment 88 arrested a total of 40 suspected terrorists during 10th-17th October 2019. That number included a married couple who stabbed Wiranto. According to the police, the group communicates in a structured, systematic and intense manner through social media. In fact, they are also mentioned actively using Telegram.

7. Medan Suicide Bombing Attack

Near the end year of 2019, Indonesia was again shocked by the suicide bombing. The incident occurred at Medan police Headquarters, North Sumatra, on November 13th, 2019. The perpetrators are known to initials RMN, whose daily living is as an online motorcycle taxi driver. He was also suspected of being exposed to radicalism. In carrying out the action, RMN was assisted by two colleagues to make bombs. Until November 19th, 2019 the police had named 30 suspects related to the suicide bombing. This includes three people who died, namely RMN and two people who were arrested in Datar village, Perak district, Deli Serdang. The suspects consisted of 3 women and 24 men. They have a variety of roles, ranging from treasurers, assemblers and recruiters. However, overall, until 2nd December 2019, Detachment 88 had arrested 92 suspected terrorists after the suicide bombing.

Based on the facts above, it can be seen that terrorist activities are still active and continue to run in

Indonesia. Terrorism activity goes underground and uses social media. This is certainly an important concern for both the public and the government to control and supervise the use of social media.

Kinds of Terror Action in Indonesia

The following contex is based on the interview with Rudy Laksmono lecturer from university of defense during the international terrorism seminar held by Indonesian Embassy in Tehran in 2018.

Based on the data above 87% of terror actions in Indonesia during 2000- 2019 were classified as religious terrorism, and most of the perpetrator are linked to other countries such as Afghanistan, Philippines, Malaysia, Syria, and Saudi Arabia and etc. It means that Indonesian terror actions were imported from outside of Indonesia by those perpetrators.

Moreover, according to Head of Nahdhatul Ulama (biggest Islamic organization), Said Agil Siradj, said that most of the perpetrator in Indonesia are coming from Wahhabi groups, and this ideology becoming an entering point for terrorism.

At last, by knowing the source of ideology and organizations linked with the perpetrators hopefully the government and society are able to work together protecting our generation and people around us from those ideology.

Radical Movement in Indonesia

Religion in Indonesia regarded as a basic for peaceful and mindful civilization has changed a lot. Religious-majority in Indonesia are now being deceived, defeated, and infiltrated

by foreign ideologies and the West is propagating this as a tremendous threat, symbolized by terrorism and intolerance. Indonesia is one of the most striking historical examples of a systematic destruction of progressive Religious values.

In the 1950s and early 1960s, the United States, Australia and the West in general were increasingly concerned about the anti-imperialist and internationalist jargons that were echoed by President Soekarno. They are also worried about the growing popularity of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI); but they were much more worried about socialist ideologies and moderate, which clearly shared communist ideals.

Indonesian religion has been reduced to a silent majority. As such, religion will only make headlines in the international media if a white-robed group is deemed a nuisance or when extremists linked to the Afghan and Arab countries blow up nightclubs, hotels or restaurants in Bali and Jakarta. The former President of Indonesia, who is a progressive religion cleric, Abdurrahman Wahid, was also forced down by a number of elites said that:

> *I know who blew up the Marriot Hotel in Jakarta. It was not an attack by an Islamic group; rather, carried out by secret Indonesian intelligence services, to legitimize the budget for their existence, and to please the West.* *(Vltcheck, 2012)*

Based on this fact, it is clear that radical movement in Indonesia is clearly linked with the west. This systematic movement gradually have grown and develop into several organizations and parties.

Conclusion

Based on the research and gathered data it can be concluded that:

1. Most of radical and terror actions occurred in Indonesia and other countries of the world has been done individually and categorized as religious terrorism.

2. Several background that causing and supporting these radical and terror actions such as:
   - Radical ideology and organizations
   - Supporting capital and material of terror from other countries
   - Spreading of hoaxes in social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Instagram

3. The purposes of radical and terror action in Indonesia and other countries of the world are as follows:
   - Creating fear and insecurity among people.
   - Developing instability against government to create state based on radical ideology.

4. The trigger factors of radical ideology are:
   - Misinterpretations of Quran verses and prophet traditions and Testaments texts
   - Hoax in social Media spread by terror organizations
   - Less of government control in social media contents

5. The Appropriate solution to anticipate and preventing the expansion of radical ideology based on Religious ethic point of view are:

- Understanding the root of radical ideology such as Wahhabi and other takfiri ideology.
- De-radicalization of Religious radical follower by using the previous terror actor.
- Propagate and explain the appropriate context of verses and Religious traditions to all Indonesian people and other countries of the world.

- Controlling the social media contents from hoaxes.

6. Islam is a religion of peace, which is prevent and against any kind of terror and vicious activities in all stages of society.

Finally, some suggestions for future research are provided. There are number of gaps in our knowledge around research that follow from our findings, and would be benefit for further research to extend the data gathered here:

- Research to analyze the relations between international terror organizations and enemies of monotheistic religions; especially Islam in state of countries about their program and strategy.

- Research on the most effective and efficient programs in the form of syllabus of information system to support peaceful religions propagation to prevent the spreading of radical ideology.
- Developing proficient and interesting social media platform to control media contents which are appropriate for Indonesian people and other countries of the world improvement.

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AUTHOR BIOSKETCHES

Amami, Mohammad Zaki. Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia.

- ✓ **Email:** *mohzakiamami@gmail.com*
- ✓ **ORCID:** *0000-0002-1225-5938*

Setyono, Budi. Professor in Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia.

- ✓ **Email:** *bssetyono@gmail.com*
- ✓ **ORCID:** *000-0001-5810-0600*

Rofiq, Annur. Department of English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember, East Java, Indonesia.

- ✓ **Email:** *annur_rofiq@yahoo.com*
- ✓ **ORCID:** *0000-0002-5503-668X*