

ABSTRACT

The Movement of Religious Moderation: The Indonesian Experience of Non-Radical Approach to Deradicalisation

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Indonesian cases of religiously-inspired radicalism are one of the most prominent in the world. Government and non-government organizations are deeply involved in the process of eradicating this phenomenon. From the government side, hard approach has been most visible method taken so far. However, the efficacy of hard approach in dealing with radicalism is under serious question. In many ways, it has attracted more simultaneous backlash. In such cases, the adoption of a new approach in dealing with religiously-inspired radicalism is inevitable.

In the light of this situation, during at least, five years, Indonesian government has launched a campaign to counter religiously-inspired radicalism. The campaign called “*Moderasi Beragama*” in Indonesian national language, or religious moderation, is aimed at advocating people of religions in Indonesia, especially Muslims, to have moderate mindset on religion and at the same time, practice their religion in proportional way. As a strategy, this approach has brought new hope for deradicalization movement in Indonesia. The strength of this approach is two-folds. Firstly, it proposes non-violence nature in dealing with radicalism. Secondly, as radicalism is not merely the problem of action, but the most fundamental element of radicalism is mode of thought, the movement of religious moderation is aimed at moderating mindset.

However, in reality, this approach cannot be easily implemented. Many Muslim groups in Indonesia view moderation as a movement towards secularizing Indonesian Muslims, and even further it is perceived as an agenda of the enemy of Islam to destroy Islam using the hand of Muslims. This paper looks into deep sides of the movement, how it has been developing during recent years, what kinds of benefits it has brought for deradicalisation movement, what kinds of challenge that it faced; and can this approach be maintained in the future.

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SHORT BIO

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