

C Java Pesantren Reject Islamic State

Candra Malik | May 09, 2011

Islamic boarding schools across Central Java have vowed to close their doors to a movement advocating the establishment of an Islamic state in Indonesia, says a leading cleric.

A. Mustafa Bisri, a well-known religious leader from Rembang popularly known as Gus Mus, told the Jakarta Globe on Sunday that the outlawed movement, also known as the NII, was directly opposed to the Pancasila, the state ideology.

“The NII is a political product,” said Gus Mus, who runs the Raudlatul Tholibin Islamic boarding school and heads the advisory board of the nation’s biggest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama.

He said founding President Sukarno was against the idea of an Islamic state, which was championed by Sekarmadji Maridjan Kartosuwiryo, who led the Darul Islam militia in a low-level insurgency in the 1950s to establish an Islamic state.

“If the idea of the NII has reappeared today, it is because the dynamism of politics today has brought this issue forward,” he said. “But things will not change with us at our schools. We practice Pancasila in our schools.”

Kartosuwiryo was captured and executed in 1962 and Darul Islam disbanded in 1965, but the desire for an Islamic state remains strong among fundamentalist Muslim groups.

“We believe in the idea of the nation-state,” Gus Mus said, stressing that the province’s boarding schools taught students about nationalism both in class and at the mosque.

“In fact, in many boarding schools here, scholars are faithfully teaching from the *Idzotun Nasyiin*, a book written by the late scholar Musthofa Ghuliyin, which was banned during the Dutch colonial times. This book contains lessons about loving the motherland and defending the country.

“We will always instill the principles of the Pancasila in our students. All our students must remain loyal to the Pancasila.”

In Magelang, M. Yusuf Chudlori, who heads the Perguruan Islam boarding school in Tegalrejo, said the government should be more concerned about Pancasila being taught at state schools rather than at Islamic boarding schools.

“For us, the traditional Muslim circles, Pancasila is something that is fixed and constant. There is no negotiation with the Pancasila — it is a part of us,” he said.

Yusuf said an Islamic state would never work in Indonesia because of the country’s rich history as a diverse archipelagic nation comprised of a multitude of ethnicities, races and religions.

“We tell our students that they are the heirs of this republic, and they are obligated to keep it intact. Not once has it crossed our minds to establish an Islamic state.

“Our forefathers left us — the children and grandchildren — the mandate to work toward realizing Darussalam, which means land of peace, and not Darul Islam, or the Islamic state.”

Muhammad Ali, head of Ta’mirul Islam boarding school in Solo, said the NII movement was spreading outside the boarding schools, not within them.

“Most of this is happening at public schools and universities that do not have a strong understanding of Islam,” he said. “We strictly prohibit our students from having anything to do with the NII.”

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