



جمعيت العلماء ومدرسي الدين الاسلامي سنغافورة

Persatuan Ulama dan Guru-Guru Agama Islam (Singapura)
Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association

FOR MEDIA CIRCULATION

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PERGAS' RESPONSE ON PLANS TO ATTACK AND MURDER MUSLIMS AT SINGAPORE MOSQUES AND OUR ADVICE ON THE MATTER

We refer to the news reported on the local mainstream media on 27 January 2021 regarding the plans made by a 16-year-old male Christian youth to attack and murder Muslims at two mosques in Singapore.

2. Pergas is highly concerned and view this matter seriously. All forms of radicalism, tyranny and oppression from any individual or group is unacceptable. It is incongruent with the teachings of Islam, Christianity and other religions that foster peace and harmony. In fact, it is contrary to universal values that seek to uphold human dignity and spread goodness irrespective of race and religion. Allah s.w.t decrees in the Holy Qur'an:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ۝

Meaning: Help you one another in *Al-Birr* and *At-Taqwa* (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment. (Surah Al-Ma'idah verse 2)

Allah s.w.t. has also forbidden mankind from destroying mosques, churches, temples and other places of worship:

وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَّهَدَمَتْ صَوَامِعُ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ۝

Meaning: For had it not been that Allah checks one set of people by means of another, monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, wherein the Name of Allah is

mentioned much would surely have been pulled down. Verily, Allah will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allah is All-Strong, All-Mighty. (Surah Al-Hajj verse 40)

3. With that, Pergas calls upon the Muslim community in Singapore to remain calm in the face of issues such as this. Pergas is confident that the Muslim community is capable of being mature in our response, having faced similar issues before. In fact, Pergas encourages the Muslim community in Singapore to emulate and mirror the ethics of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. who often chose peace and harmony even during times when he was oppressed. The Prophet s.a.w. also taught his *ummah* to reject wickedness and humiliation by replacing them with righteousness and gentleness. It is hoped that these actions will overcome harshness. The ethics of the Prophet s.a.w is reflected in the command of Allah s.w.t. in the Holy Qur'an:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ
حَمِيمٌ ٣٤

Meaning: The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better (i.e. Allah orders the faithful believers to be patient at the time of anger, and to excuse those who treat them badly) then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend. (Surah al-Fussilat verse 34)

4. Finally, violence exists among the followers of every religion even though all religions foster peace. It is our challenge together as Singaporeans. As such, Pergas would like to express our willingness to share with members of other religious groups on our experience with the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) and the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) – which is administered together with Muis - in helping to deal with the extremist activities of others. We need to unite as Singaporeans in the fight against terrorism. We also urge all Singaporeans to be patient and resolute in the process in order that we may reap its benefits. We also need to continue our efforts to instill mutual understanding among members of every religion and race. We pray that Allah s.w.t. preserve the peace and security enjoyed by the people of Singapore.

SINGAPORE ISLAMIC SCHOLARS AND RELIGIOUS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION