

Malaysians Come Together To Protest Anti-Islam Film, Cartoons
Bernama
September 21, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Thousands of Malaysians regardless of race, religion and political affiliation came together in solidarity Friday to stage peaceful demonstrations in many places around the country against a film and cartoons mocking Islam and Prophet Muhammad.

They protested against the film, dubbed "Innocence of Muslims", produced by one Sam Bacile of California which insulted Islam and Prophet Muhammad and against cartoons mocking the prophet published by a French magazine, Charlie Hebdo.

Two major demonstrations were held in the federal capital after Friday prayers, one led by Umno Youth in the compound of the Kampung Baru Jamek Mosque and the other, led by PAS Youth, at the Tabung Haji Mosque.

Members of the youth wings of component parties of the Barisan Nasional (BN) and several non-governmental organisations joined the hour-long protest organised by Umno Youth.

Besides Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin, other leaders who participated in that demonstration included the president of the Malay right-wing group Perkasa, Datuk Ibrahim Ali; spiritual leader of "Tolak Individu Bernama Anwar Ibrahim (Tibai), Zahid Md Arip; Jalur Tiga (JATI) president Datuk Dr Hasan Ali; Putera 1Malaysia Club president Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim and Malaysian Youth Council president Mohamed Maliki Mohamed Rapiee.

Cheras Police chief ACP Mohan Singh Tara Singh said the demonstrators exercised control and adhered to the instructions of the police.

Khairy, in addressing the protestors at the Kampung Baru Jamek Mosque, reminded the world community that Malaysia would not at all accept and would object vehemently against attempts to insult Islam and Prophet Muhammad.

He said the solidarity of the people in the country was demonstrated by the consensus reached between the two Malay political parties, Umno and PAS, to come together in the protest.

"The youth wings of Umno and PAS, along with several NGOs, are in solidarity to demonstrate that Malaysians are against any attempt to insult Islam and Prophet Muhammad.

"We have agreed that this gathering and the other in front of the United States Embassy are a manifestation of the Muslim condemnation of the insult against Islam, and do not want to deviate from the common cause," he told the protestors.

Khairy said the governments of the United States and France should take immediate action against the producer of the film and the cartoons, respectively, to demonstrate their respect for followers of other religions.

"If they do not do so, we should regard that as a direct insult to Islam," he said.

The gathering, which was also attended by Umno Youth vice-head Datuk Razali Ibrahim and Puteri Umno chief Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, dispersed after prayers were recited by Dr Hasan.

The demonstration at the Tabung Haji Mosque was led by PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayub, who was accompanied by several leaders of the opposition pact and representatives of NGOs.

They included PKR vice-president and Batu MP Tian Chua, Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar, PAS Information chief Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, PAS Youth chief Nasruddin Hassan and Teras Pengupayaan Melayu (Teras) president Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid.

In GEORGE TOWN, more than 50 Muslims joined a peaceful demonstration organised by the Penang branch of the Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress (Kimma) at the Lebuah Aceh Mosque.

Penang Kimma Liaison Committee chairman Faruk Raja Mohamed told reporters afterwards that YouTube should check access to the offending film "Innocence of Muslims" throughout the world.

YouTube stopped access to the film in Malaysia on Sept 17 and anyone trying to gain access received the reply: "This content is not available in your country due to a legal complaint. Sorry about that".

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=696402>