

Muslims Who Join IS No Longer Follow Sunni Teachings

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PUTRAJAYA, May 7 (Bernama) -- Muslim individuals who join the Islamic State (IS) militant group are regarded as having left Sunni teachings, says the Sunni Association of India secretary-general Syeikh Abu Bakar Ahmad Al Malibari.

He said the impression that violent acts to the point of killing committed by Muslims who joined the group as a jihad was very much opposed to the way of moderation which was the main foundation of the Sunni Wal Jamaah teachings.

"Sunni Islam has never taught its followers to become extremists, perform violent acts and kill.

"The call to jihad according to Islam is to uphold the religion, defend oneself and country and not to go to war against others in the name of jihad," he said.

Talking to reporters through an interpreter, when met at the Malaysia World Sunni Ulama Assembly 2015 here, today, Syeikh Abu Bakar said the death of those who fought with the IS militant group could not be regarded as syahid (martyrdom).

He said this was because, the basis of the struggle of the group had deviated from the true teachings of Islam and the concept of jihad according to Islamic law, and the jihad war involved cruelty and violence against children, women and the elderly.

"The greatest jihad is the jihad to combat or control desires from wanting to kill and perpetrate violence. In fact, Islam has never urged its followers to go to war for jihad. On the other hand, jihad according to Islamic teachings is only to defend the religion, self and country," he said.

Yemeni ulama Habib Abu Bakar Adni Al-Masyar said shallowness on what were actual Sunni teachings resulted in Muslims finding it difficult to differentiate between jihad and killing, prompting them to join extremist movements like IS.

He said understanding the concept of jihad was important to prevent a person from being duped into performing jihad because usually such a struggle joined would involve killing.

"When killings take place without the basis of true jihad in it, it automatically deviates from the concept of jihad as stipulated by Islam, what more when the war involves Muslims killing Muslims," he said.

Themed "Knowing the Facts on Sunnah Wal Jamaah, the three-day assembly from yesterday, organised by Yayasan Perdana Ummah, is being participated by 25 ulama from 15 nations.

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