

Spying and degrading people not in Islamic teachings, says SIS
The Rakyat Post
December 10, 2015
By Ahmed Syahril Zulkeply

Sisters in Islam quoted verses in the Quran such as Surah al-Hujurat (49:12) which says, 'don't look for the secrets of others', and Surah an-Nur (24:27, 28) which say 'thou shall not enter any homes that is not thy own, until thou have asked permission and give greetings to its inhabitants; and if it is said to you, go, then thou should leave; that way is better for you.'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sister in Islam (SIS) has expressed regret over the criticisms and rude accusations made against the group of eminent Malays, G25, after organising a forum entitled "Islam in a Constitutional Democracy".

The non-governmental organisation (NGO), in a statement today, said of recent there had been an increase in the number of "religious defenders" or syariah law practitioners who threw quick, unprofessional accusations without any basis against those seeking to improve the syariah legal system in the country.

"The positive voices that urge towards renewal to repair laws, accompanied by arguments that correspond to the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, should be welcomed as it is consistent with the government's commitment to eradicate extremism and turn Malaysia into a model Muslim majority nation that practises the 'wasatiyyah' branch of Islam.

"Therefore, SIS is disappointed when criticism and accusations are made against G25. Among them were accusations claiming that the group encourages rampant adultery and calling on them to repent."

At the same time, SIS stressed that khalwat (close proximity) prevention operations, done through spying and degrading the individual's dignity, were against Islamic teachings.

SIS pointed out that a number of such operations had also resulted in deaths but no action was taken against those responsible for the loss of life.

"The Syariah Criminal Offences Act, especially those associated with moral policing, are strictly against the principles of justice and individual privacy rights assured under Islam.

"There are many verses in the Quran that clarify this, like Surah al-Hujurat (49:12) which says, 'don't look for the secrets of others', and Surah an-Nur (24:27, 28) which says, ' thou shall not enter any homes that is not thy own, until thou have asked permission and give greetings to its inhabitants; and if it is said to you, go, then thou should leave; that way is better for you."

SIS added that there were no academic sources in Islamic history that encouraged spying and searching for offences of others through moral policing.

“Spying is against the rights of citizens in a democratic country, as assured under the Federal Constitution. It is regretful that syariah laws in Malaysia are implemented without taking into account these principles, the right to privacy and individual dignity.

“Instead, khalwat operations are done to degrade individuals in the name of religion.”

The Islamic NGO urged the authorities and Islamic aristocrats be more open to constructive criticism to improve the current laws and regulations in the country.

“Problems within the Islamic community will be solved if we hold true to Islamic teachings that defend human rights and emphasise on love and awareness.”

Copyright © 2015 The Rakyat Post

Source: <http://www.therakyatpost.com/news/2015/12/10/spying-and-degrading-people-not-in-islamic-teachings-says-sis/>