

SUARA PERDAMAIAN

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Gathering of Clerics

Strengthening Unity for a Peaceful Indonesia



► The initiator of the National Enlightenment Movement, Prof. Dr. Mahfud M.D. (third from right) taking a photograph together with other speakers at the AIDA event: "Gathering of Clerics: Strengthening Unity through Ibroh". From left to right: Josuwa Ramos, a survivor of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing; Imam B. Prasodjo, a sociologist from Universitas Indonesia; K.H. M. Dian Nafi, the Vice-Chairman of the Consultative Board of Nahdlatul Ulama's Regional Office in Central Java; Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director; and Kurnia Widodo, a former terrorist perpetrator.

Religious leaders play an important role in maintaining peace and defending people from the influence of ideologies of violence, such as terrorism. Solidarity among Moslem clerics must be further strengthened in order to bring peace to the whole nation.

Such was the message at the event, "Gathering of Clerics: Strengthening Unity through Ibroh", which was held by the Alliance for a Peaceful Indonesia (Aliansi Indonesia Damai or AIDA), in cooperation with AL-Muayyad Windan Islamic boarding school in Surakarta (Solo) on Saturday (31/8). A number of national figures were speakers at the event. Among them were Prof. Dr. Mahfud M.D., the initiator of the National Enlightenment Movement (Gerakan Suluh Kebangsaan); Imam B. Prasodjo, a sociologist from Universitas Indonesia (UI); K.H. M. Dian Nafi, the Vice-Chairman of the Consultative Board (Rais Syariah) of Nahdlatul Ulama's Regional Office in Central Java; Josuwa Ramos, a survivor of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing; Kurnia Widodo, a former terrorist perpetrator; and Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director. The gathering was moderated by Zuly Qodir, a member of the Muhammadiyah organization.

AIDA Accepts an Award from the Law Ministry



The Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights gave an award to AIDA for its relentless assistance in helping rehabilitate prison inmates. The award of appreciation was handed by Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly, the Law Minister, to Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director, in an event held by the Directorate General of Corrections in Cilacap on Thursday (22/8/2019).

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The event aimed to encourage all elements of society to take *ibroh* (valuable lessons) from the past to achieve a state of perpetual peace. More specifically, AIDA's experiences of facilitating reconciliation between victims and former terrorists could serve as a source of inspiration for all Indonesians to unify.

As the keynote speaker, Mahfud M.D. said that terrorism poses a continuous threat to peace. Such extraordinary crime not only destroys life but also inflicts unspeakable sufferings on its victims. "Terrorism exists, the



▶ A scene from the AIDA event in Solo on Saturday (31/8/2019).

perpetrators exist, and the victims also exist. What do not exist are people who feel happy with terrorism acts," he said.

He urged religious leaders and clerics to become the spurs in efforts to maintain peace and to fight against ideologies of violence. He also reminded everyone to accept differences as a reality of life, even as part of their religious duties.

Imam B. Prasodjo, UI sociologist, invited all the religious leaders to unite and strengthen their solidarity to bring peace to Indonesia, especially in light of conflicts that had escalated recently. Imam urged religious leaders to take an active role in preventing violence, such as terrorism and social clashes. "I believe that clerics hold extraordinary power to unite the whole nation, so that our country can rise again," he said.

Hundreds of Moslem clerics from the greater Solo area enthusiastically participated in the event that morning. They also heard the stories of the victim of terrorism and the former terrorist. Josuwa Ramos talked about his experience surviving the terrorist attack at the Rasuna Said Boulevard, South Jakarta, in 2004. Pieces of shrapnel pierced various parts of his body. He had converted to Islam just the month before, and his newfound faith was gravely shaken by the attack. He had kept asking this question: how could someone who claimed to be a Moslem commit such an

atrocious?

It was not easy, but, as time passed, he managed to forgive the perpetrators. He realized that no one is free from fault. Some of his acquaintances advised him to follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. "A cleric taught me Islam. I learnt from tales about the Prophet Muhammad, that even the Prophet was willing to forgive others. In spite of my imperfection, I keep trying to follow his teachings," he said.

On the same occasion, Kurnia Widodo

also talked about his repentance and reversion from the dark world of extremism to the way of peace. He was deeply shaken upon knowing that so many people continue to suffer because of terrorist acts. "I saw how terrorism only made people suffer, especially after meeting with the victims. My

heart was broken when I first saw the horrible consequences. I immediately apologized to the victim on behalf of my other friends at that time," he said.

A number of participants admitted that they were filled with emotions when they learnt valuable lessons from the stories of the victim and former terrorist. "When Mr Jojo (Josuwa Ramos) talked about his story and experience—conquering all of his anger and courageously overcoming the impact of the tragedy, I shed tears because that's exactly what the Prophet did," said a participant who

"Terrorism exists, the perpetrators exist, and the victims also exist. What do not exist are people who feel happy with terrorism acts"

represented PC Muslimat NU of Surakarta City. Another participant, who was a representative of Aisyiyah Boarding School, Sukoharjo regency, encouraged all religious leaders to spread the message of peace when preaching to their congregations. "We have to be aware of our surroundings. We must be personally involved," he said.

K.H. M. Dian Nafi, the head of Al-Muayyad Windan Boarding School, reminded the audience that the victim's and former terrorist's experiences contain very valuable lessons on the importance of peace, as well as the importance of working together to strengthen unity (*ukhuwah*) in order to achieve peace. "These people teach us that our solidarity must remain strong, both between individuals and between communities," he said. [FS/AH]

Editor's Greetings

Peace be upon you all, Indonesians! This Edition XXII of *Suara Perdamaian* (Voice of Peace) is here to report on AIDA's efforts to build peace throughout Indonesia between July and September 2019. AIDA involves both victims and former terrorists in all of its activities.

A report on the "Gathering of Clerics: Strengthening Unity through *Ibroh*" in Solo (Surakarta) serves as the main feature of this edition. The event saw hundreds of Moslem religious leaders from the greater Solo area in attendance, during which they were encouraged to help strengthen the bond among Indonesian citizens and to spread the message of peace among their congregations. The founder of the National Enlightenment Movement, Prof. Dr. Mahfud M.D., served as the keynote speaker at the gathering.

AIDA's peace roadshow campaign entitled: "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation", organised in five different schools in Probolinggo, is also reported on here. Participating students were encouraged to build their personal strengths in the face of life's challenges.

A similar program was also held in Indramayu, a region famous for its mangoes. AIDA organized its interactive dialogue, "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation", in five different schools in the regency. The roadshow campaign was supported by the Senior High School Development Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

A report on AIDA's short course "Promoting Victims' Perspective in the Coverage of Terrorism Issues", is also featured in this edition. As many as 38 reporters from 33 media companies actively participated in the course, which aimed to raise the journalists' awareness of the victims' perspective when covering terrorism-related issues.

This edition of *Voice of Peace* also includes a report on AIDA's training: "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers" which was held in Depok, West Java. As many as 23 correctional officers from a number of correctional facilities throughout Java participated in the training.

In the same city, AIDA also organized an advanced-level training. Different from the previous one, this training involved the alumni of previous trainings held by AIDA since 2016. Separately, news on the appreciation award from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights to AIDA is also included in this edition.

This edition further presents a piece of writing by Desmonda Paramartha, a victim of the 2018 Surabaya Bombing, which shines a light on her motivations to live a better life after the incident.

The current edition is concluded by an interview with Sri Pughu Budi Utami, the Director General of Corrections, on the various challenges to building peace in correctional facilities.

Nothing Is Impossible

Hallo ... My name is Desmonda Paramartha. I'm one of many victims of the terrorist attack on Saint Mary the Inviolate Catholic Church, Surabaya, on 13 May 2018.

Now I'm ready to share my story to you, more than one year after that event of faith.

That incident remains fresh on my mind. How can I ever forget such an event of faith, because that incident has taught me so many new lessons I had never had in my entire life. For me, it was God's blessing; from it, I could learn and understand so many valuable things. Now I needn't bury myself in the misery that the incident has caused me. It's because it's really an event of faith. Through such events, our faith in God is brought to maturity.

It's not easy to forgive people who do things like that, but I learn from Jesus who always forgave everyone who hurt him. It is indeed right and proper that we, as his disciples on earth, also forgive other people. It's not easy, but we have to do it anyway, just like what Jesus himself has taught us in the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." The wonderful prayer explicitly says that we must forgive everyone.

Until today, there've been many people who ask me about trauma, hatred, and so on. Trauma and hatred: yes, they do exist, but not as bad as before. Because if I drown myself in such negative feelings, I won't be able to do many things freely. Why? Because trauma and hatred will only burden me with things which I'm not supposed to carry till eternity. True, many people still can't believe and are surprised that I could so quickly throw away such negative feelings.

"We can be angry; we can hate those people who are already dead. But what for? If we're harboring anger and hatred against them, they'd be happier than us. Why? Because they'd feel that they've successfully destroyed our sense of unity and harmony. It's much better if we just forgive them. It's difficult, but we can do that, slowly but sure." That's my usual answer to those who keep asking me, "How can you forgive them so fast?"

Now I can be proud of myself: Desmonda, who was once unable to forgive, has experienced an event of faith that has driven her to forgive such evil people so quickly. That's God's true miracle; he has transformed my life!

For those of you who still can't forgive them, the perpetrators, you must quickly forgive them. They did what they did because they envied us all. Just take the positive side of everything. Keep up the good spirit! God bless you all!

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."—Luke 23:34

Desmonda Paramartha
A victim of the 2018 Surabaya Bombing



Sowing Peace, Learning from Survivors' Fortitude

Her smiling face turned serious when she was asked about the lessons she garnered from the survivors' stories. She turned her face down and took a deep breath. The bespectacled student was thinking hard about the right words to describe the fortitude shown by the survivors of terrorism who had just shared their stories a few minutes ago.

"Patience and endurance; I'm amazed by Ms. Reni because she can face the tragedy with such bravery. Just imagine: becoming a bomb victim! Also, Ms. Reni has such a big heart that she's willing to forgive them all." Such was the statement given by a student of SMAN 1 Leces during AIDA's interactive dialogue: "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation", organized in Probolinggo in early August this year. She admitted that she had gained valuable lessons and life motivation from the experience of Reni Sitania, a secondary victim of a 2004 bomb tragedy in Jakarta.

Reni's beloved brother, Martinus Sitania, was gone forever after falling victim to a terrorist bomb attack in the Kuningan area, South Jakarta on 9 September 2004. Great sadness struck the whole family because they had lost someone they greatly relied on.



► Participants enthusiastically perform their group yell during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue at SMKN 1 Probolinggo on Wednesday (7/8/2019).

Martinus was the family's breadwinner. The terrorist act had destroyed not only his mortal body but also their future. Since then, Reni and her family have tried to recover from the tragedy. There was one message from her parents that she would always remember: that her brother's death was part of God's plan.

Reni also said that she and her family have forgiven the terrorists who have taken her brother's life. In the interactive dialogue at SMAN 1 Leces,

Reni ceremoniously accepted the apology of a former terrorist and expressed her hope that peace in Indonesia will not be destroyed by violent acts.

No matter how heavy the suffering we have had to endure, we still have to forgive one another.

"No matter how heavy the suffering we have had to endure, we still have to forgive one another. We must sincerely accept it and even pray for the perpetrators so that they'll realize that what they're

doing is wrong and hurts many people," she said.

As a former terrorist, Kurnia Widodo explained to the participants that his meeting with victims was one of the factors that convinced him to leave the world of violence. Kurnia admitted that he was grateful for having served his sentence in prison because he was given the opportunity to meet with survivors of terrorism in an activity facilitated by AIDA.

"I listened to their stories, about the suffering they had to endure because of terrorist acts. My eyes were brimming with tears when I listened to them. I immediately apologized to them, even though I wasn't personally involved in the terrorist act that caused their suffering," he said.

AIDA's interactive dialogue at SMAN (Public Senior High School) 1 Leces was part of its roadshow peace campaign in Probolinggo regency, Central Java. Similar interactive dialogues were also organized at SMA Taruna



► A group of students performs their group yell during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue in SMA Taruna Dra. Zulaeha Probolinggo on Monday (5/8/2019).



► Students engage in a group discussion during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue at SMAN 4 Probolinggo on Friday (7/8/2019).

(Cadet Senior High School) Dra. Zulaeha, SMKN (Public Vocational High School) 1, SMAN 3, and SMAN 4 of Probolinggo City. About fifty students from each school attended the dialogues.

One of the student participants of the dialogues stated that AIDA must actively promote its activities among the young generation. In his opinion, most young people would not really understand the importance of peace, and they could easily fall into the world of violence. "In my opinion, only 40% of Indonesian youths prefer to live the way of peace, but the other 60% tend to engage in violence, street fights," he said.

He also talked about his experience with someone who had been exposed to extremist doctrines. When he was in junior high school, he was once forbidden from attending a flag-raising ceremony by one of his teachers. Not long after, he heard news that the teacher had been arrested by the police on suspicion of being involved in terrorism. The student participant confirmed that since attending the AIDA interactive dialogue, he has obtained more knowledge and understanding to tackle extremist thoughts.

in the bomb explosion. However, with a great determination, she rose from misery, forgave the perpetrators, and even actively campaigned for peace now.

"I lost one love in the incident, my true love, my husband. But today, I stand here with a great hope that a thousand loves will spring from us all," she said during the interactive dialogue at SMA Taruna Dra. Zulaeha.

During the interactive dialogue at SMAN 3 Probolinggo, AIDA Director Hasibullah Satrawi explained that the stories of both victims and former terrorists contain valuable lessons for the young generation. He reminded the students to sow the spirit of endurance in their hearts so that they can avoid the way of violence when experiencing various life



► Participants attentively listen to the stories of terrorism survivors during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue at SMAN 1 Leces Probolinggo on Tuesday (6/8/2019).

Besides Reni and Kurnia, the interactive dialogue also presented Ni Luh Ernati, a victim of the 2002 Bali Bombing. She had to confront various life challenges after her beloved husband, Gede Badrawan, was killed

challenges. "From the victims, we learn not to respond to violence with more violence. From the former terrorist, we learn that injustices in one part of the world must not be met with injustices in other places," he said. [MSH]



► A participant asks a question to the speakers during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue at SMAN 3 Probolinggo on Thursday (8/8/2019).

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Peace Campaign in Schools

Love Hugs for Survivors



► Hayati Eka Laksmi, a victim of the 2002 Bali Bombing, shares her story during AIDA's interactive dialogue, "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at SMAN 1 Indramayu on Monday (26/8/2019).

A teenager walked towards the door to approach Hayati Eka Laksmi, a victim of the 2002 Bali Bombing. When Eka realized the young girl was heading towards her, she extended her hands and they hugged. The teenage girl cried in her warm embrace.

This emotional moment occurred during the interactive dialogue, "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at the SMA (Senior High School) Muhammadiyah Haurgeulis, Indramayu regency, West Java, in late August this year. The program was organized by AIDA, in cooperation with the Senior High School Development Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The dialogue was part of AIDA's effort to strengthen positive character in students. Similar interactive dialogues were also held at SMAN (Public Senior High School) 1 Indramayu, SMAN 1 Sindang, SMAN 1 Haurgeulis, and MAN (Islamic Senior High

passing was a big shock for Eka, as if half of her soul was ripped away from her. She also lost the family's sole breadwinner when her two children were still very young. The veiled woman tried her best to remain brave, embracing her current role as both mother and father for her children. She searched for a job, taking on the responsibility of her dead husband.

a school in Denpasar to earn a living. She said that she was proud of herself as the widow of a terrorism victim who has successfully raised her children until they were able to attend university.

Besides Eka, the interactive dialogue also featured Sutarno, a survivor of a terrorist bombing in the Kuningan area, South Jakarta, which took place on 9 September 2004. During

"In fact, sadness must make us stronger, motivating us to take courage and fix things."

School) 1 Indramayu. About fifty students from each school enthusiastically participated in the respective activities.

During the dialogues, students listened to the stories of terrorism victims about their struggle to overcome their grief. It is hoped that the victims' stories could inspire the young generation to foster the spirit of endurance in their hearts and to maintain peace wherever they were.

Eka talked about her life journey in which she had to face so many tribulations after the death of her beloved husband, Imawan Sardjono, because of a terrorist bomb attack in Bali on 12 October 2002. Her husband's



► Students present their group discussion results during AIDA's interactive dialogue at MAN 1 Indramayu on Friday (30/8/2019).

"When I was about to submit that job application, I cried on my motorbike. I screamed on the road. That's because I must appear strong in front of the children. I tried so hard not to cry in front of them," she said.

After passing through a long period of internal struggle and contemplation, Eka declared that she has totally regained her strength. She works as a counseling teacher at

the interactive dialogue at SMAN 1 Sindang and MAN 1 Indramayu, Sutarno, who came from Wonogiri, also shared his life story. At the time of the incident, he was sent out by his office to buy some food. When he was walking by the series of office towers in the Kuningan area, a bomb exploded. That fierce explosion caused huge damage to many office buildings.

"Glass shards fell on me like rain. Some of

them pierced my back. I could only cry God the Almighty ... God the Almighty ... oh my God ...," he said in recollection.

Sutarno did not only sustain physical injuries but also psychological ones. He was deeply traumatized. He would easily be shocked and anxious every time he heard a loud noise. For some time he felt that his emotions were more easily aroused than they had been before the bombing incident.

Sutarno's journey towards recovery started when he underwent counseling sessions to conquer his trauma. Slowly but sure, he started to get ahold of his life, thanks to the support of his family and closest friends. In addition to going back to work, he is now pursuing higher education at a university in Jakarta.

Enemies in the Past, Brothers at Present

Besides victims, the AIDA interactive dialogues at the schools in the Indramayu regency also featured Iswanto, a former terrorist perpetrator, who came from Lamongan, East Java. He was once a member of a terrorist group and was even involved in armed conflicts in a number of regions.

When he was involved in the world of violence, he did not realize that his group's actions would harm so many people. However, Iswanto has left this group and chosen the path of peace. He ceremoniously expressed his sincerest apology to Eka and Sutarno as the representatives of terrorism victims. True, he



► Iswanto, a former terrorist, shares his story with students during AIDA's interactive dialogue at SMA Muhammadiyah Haurgeulis on Thursday (29/8/2019).

Dok. AIDA



► Participants play a game during AIDA's interactive dialogue at SMAN 1 Sindang on Tuesday (27/8/2019).

Dok. AIDA



► Students engage in a group discussion during AIDA's interactive dialogue at SMAN 1 Hargeulis on Wednesday (28/8/2019).

Dok. AIDA

was once part of a group that supported many violent acts, but he has now chosen to become a merchant and a civics teacher in a school.

"When I was at school, I was never present in civics classes. But all of you must know that in the last four years, I've been teaching civics," said Iswanto to the students of SMAN 1 Haurgeulis.

Having witnessed the repentance and

personal transformation of former terrorists like Iswanto, Eka and Sutarno were willing to forgive. Sutarno said that no one is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes. Because of that, humans must forgive each other. "As a victim, I've never borne any grudge. I've considered him (the former terrorist—Ed.) as my own brother, and I've forgiven him," said Sutarno, which was followed by a big round of applause

from the participants of the interactive dialogue.

A participant from SMAN 1 Sindang expressed her impression of the dialogue. In her opinion, the activity had been very beneficial for her because it changed her way of thinking. "One of the lessons that I learned is that it's better for us to be open to other people when we have problems. Actually, it must start from ourselves; we must forgive ourselves first, and then, all those complicated problems in our heads will solve themselves. That's cool," she said.

Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director, said that the term "strong generation" in the dialogue's title actually referred to those who were willing to admit their faults and to improve themselves. A strong generation, he said, must be able to rise from misery and turn it into a source of inspiration for other people.

"Everyone cries. But we must also learn from Mrs. Eka that sadness need not destroy us. In fact, sadness must make us stronger, motivating us to take courage and fix things," he said. [MSH, HP]

Promoting Awareness of Victims' Perspectives

“Personally, listening to victims’ stories can open up a new way of thinking for those working in the media on how the victims really feel and what the victims really need.”



► Imam B. Prasodjo, a sociologist from Universitas Indonesia, speaks to the participants of AIDA's Short Course on "Promoting Victims' Perspective in the Coverage of Terrorism Issues" in Jakarta from Wednesday to Thursday (3–4/7/2019).

former terrorist perpetrator). As someone who once joined a terrorist group, Kurnia expressed his deepest regret for his contributions to the world of violence in the past. Through his personal meeting with victims in many different activities organized by AIDA, he came to realize that his past actions could not be justified in any way. Meanwhile, Dwi said that even though terrorist acts have injured and inflicted so much damage on her, as time passed, she could eventually forgive the terrorists.

Dwi added that it took her several months after the traumatic bombing incident to gather her courage just to

The statement was given by a journalist from NET channel after listening to a terrorist victim’s story. He responded to an invitation by AIDA to attend a short course entitled: “Promoting the Victims’ Perspective in the News Coverage of Terrorism Issues” in Jakarta in early July this year. As a head of the news division, he admitted that most journalistic reports on terrorism issues focused more on the terrorists’ perspective or the incident itself. Thanks to AIDA’s course, he has become aware that the victims’ perspective must be further highlighted in the reportage.

The course aimed to increase media personnel’s awareness of the victims’ perspective when covering issues related to terrorism.

As many as 38 journalists from 33 media organizations were active participants in the two-day course.

A number of terrorism victims shared their stories with the participating journalists. Susi Afitriyani, also known as Pipit, is a victim of a bomb explosion in the Kampung Melayu area, East Jakarta, two years ago. She said that she

did still feel the impact of the terrorist act. The injuries in her shoulder, arm and back still often hurt. The young girl from Brebes still found it difficult to move her right arm each time someone shook hands with her.

Wartini, the widow of a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing, also shared her story. Wartini said that she had suffered a lot after the death of her beloved husband, the late Syahromi, because of the bomb attack.

The participants were stunned listening to the victims’ life stories. Some opened up dialogues in their effort to dig deeper into the victims’ thoughts and impression of the mass media and their treatment of terrorism

issues. There were also some who tried to understand what the victims really needed, so that the media might be able to help ease their burdens.

In a different session, the participants listened to the story of reconciliation between Dwi Siti Rhomdoni (a survivor of the 2016 Thamrin bombing) and Kurnia Widodo (a

watch news on television. “When I saw that the media gave more exposure to the terrorists, I felt a bit angry. Why have the victims not appeared on the news? While we know that there’re a lot of victims out there who haven’t even received government assistance,” she said.

In response to Dwi’s statement, a representative from MNC TV channel said that

“The mass media must take the role of a mediator between readers and writers, and become a medium for peace.”



► The participants and the AIDA Peace Team participate in a game session.

Suara Perdamaian Voice of Peace is published by the Alliance for a Peaceful Indonesia (AIDA) Foundation. **Patron:** Buya Syafii Maarif. **Senior Board of Editors:** Imam Prasodjo, Farha Abdul Kadir Assegaf, Solahudin, Max Boon. **Coordinator:** Hasibullah Satrawi. **Chief Editor** Muhammad El Maghfurroddhi. **Redaktur:** Akhwani Subkhi, M. Syafiq, Septika WD, Fikri, Ahmad Hifni, Fahmi Suhudi, M. Saiful Haq, Linda Astri DW, Faruq AH, Hanik Purwanto, Taufiq Hidayat, Novi, Wiwit Tri R. **Editorial Secretary:** Intan Ryzki Dewi. **Layout:** Akhmad Saefullah. **Editor:** Laode Arham. **Distribution:** Lida Hawiwika, Nurul Rachmawati, Choirunnisa, Erni K, Annisah

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► Dwi Siti Rhomdoni, a victim of the 2016 Thamrin Bombing, shared her story with journalists attending AIDA's Short Course

the press to become the most trusted sources of information to fight against hoaxes and to help the people choose the most appropriate news to consume, especially in the face of a huge amount of unconfirmed information flooding different social media platforms. "Because of that, the mass media must take the role of a mediator between readers and writers, and become a medium for peace," he said.

At the same event, Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director, asserted that there were two aspects to having victims' perspective covered by the mass media. First, the media could present in-depth reports containing messages of peace from the survivors. Second, the

some journalists felt reluctant to cover victims because they were unsure whether the victims would be willing to appear in the media. They did not want to reopen their old wounds. Dwi explained that there were actually victims who would not mind if the mass media covered more victims' stories. However, it was also true that there were also victims who were not strong enough to meet with the media.

A participant from Gatra magazine responded to Dwi in turn. He declared his admiration for the survivors' great courage



► Wartini (right), a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing, and Susi Aftriyani (left), a victim of the 2017 Kampung Melayu Bombing, are giving their testimonies during the course.

and expressed his commitment to prioritizing victims' perspective in his reports. "This course has surely given me an entirely new perspective," he said.

Imam B. Prasodjo, a sociologist from Universitas Indonesia, also joined the course to present his thoughts on the media and information. In his opinion, amidst the proliferation of hoaxes and political polarization of the Indonesian society, the mass media can serve as a unifier of the people by promoting journalism focused on peace. He encouraged

media could actively promote the fulfillment of victims' rights by the state. The latter is crucial because the government has yet to issue a Government Regulation as the derivative of Law Number 5 of 2018 which regulates the mechanism for the fulfillment of victims' rights, especially compensation for long-time victims. Article 36B of the Law stated that more practical provisions regarding the fulfillment of victims' rights and compensation would be set forth in a separate Government Regulation. [NOV, TH, WTR]



ion during the course.



▶ Participants take part in a game during AIDA's training activity, "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers" in Depok from Tuesday to Wednesday (24–25/7/2019).

Training for Correctional Officers

Strengthening the Spirit of Peace in Correctional Facilities

An emotional moment took place in a hotel meeting hall in Depok City, West Java, that morning. A former terrorist stood suddenly and approached a terrorism survivor who had just walked off the stage after sharing her life story. The former terrorist bowed deeply to her and apologized. Surprisingly, the survivor held and shook the man's hands, indicating a sincere reconciliation.

The audience in the hall immediately stood up and applauded. Everyone was touched by the very rare scene. Ni Kadek Ardani (a victim of the 2005 Bali Bombing) and

Choirul Ihwan (a former terrorist accomplice) were now united, overcoming their dark past and working together to promote peace.

The event took place during a training

activity entitled "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers", which was organized by AIDA in Depok in late July this year. The training was supported by the Directorate General of Corrections, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. As many as 23 officers from a number of correctional facilities throughout Java attended the training as active participants.

During the training, Kadek spoke about the time she was struck by a terrorist bomb explosion on Jimbaran beach, Bali, on 1 October 2005. The Balinese woman was working as a waitress at a seafood restaurant when the attack took place. She estimated that the distance between the bomb-carrying terrorist and herself was about fifteen meters. The massive explosion injured her body. She said that some pieces of shrapnel were still stuck in her body. All of this suffering, however, has not hindered her from forgiving those who have repented from the snares of terrorism, such as



▶ A participant contributes during the question-and-answer session.

Choirul. “We must not meet violence with violence,” she said.

Earlier that day, Choirul, who came from Madiun, East Java, had shared his story with the attending correctional officers. He recounted his past experience, starting from when he joined an extremist group to when he finally chose the path of peace. Of various events in his life, he put special emphasis on his very first meeting with bomb victims when he was serving time at Porong prison in Sidoarjo. Choirul was terribly shocked during the dialogue with victims, an activity that was organized and facilitated by AIDA. From the victims, he finally realized the



► Participants role-play a dialogue session with terrorist inmates.

Dok. AIDA



► Mr Junaedi, the Director of Inmate Rehabilitation and Work Training, delivers his opening remarks.

Dok. AIDA

extraordinary suffering caused by terrorist acts. “After meeting the victims in person in the dialogue, I couldn’t say anything. I cried after the meeting,” he said.

Choirul’s transformation from a terrorist group member to a peace activist was not a short process. Correctional officers also played a significant role in supporting him to get out from the world of violence.

A representative from Correctional Facility Class IIB Bondowoso admitted that the training inspired him to apply a new approach to terrorist inmates at his institution. “We can tell them about the heartbreaking cries of the victims in order to arouse sympathy and remorse in the hearts of those inmates at our own institutions, to make them aware that terrorism is not the right way to deal with anything,” he said.

The officer’s impression is in line with the intention of Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director, as the organizer of the program. Hasibullah said that one of the purposes of the training was to offer the officers a new perspective on

the best way to rehabilitate and guide terrorist inmates. “When dealing with terrorist inmates, a theological approach is not enough. Other approaches are needed, such as the one involving the victims’ perspective,” he said.

He added that AIDA was committed to continuing its cooperation with the Directorate General of Corrections in its efforts to promote

“The potential for the proliferation of extremist ideologies would grow considerably if terrorist inmates are not educated in the right way.”

peace. AIDA would also be involved in various intervention activities for the rehabilitation of terrorist inmates by organizing dialogues and

meetings between terrorist inmates and victims. Such activities were effective in helping inmates develop compassion for victims.

Representing the Director General of Corrections, Junaedi, the Director of Inmate Rehabilitation and Work Training (Pembinaan Narapidana dan Latihan Kerja Produksi or Binapi Latkerpro), delivered the opening speech at the beginning of that two-day training program. He said that the introduction of the victims’ perspective to the officers during the training could expand their knowledge about more effective strategies for rehabilitating terrorist inmates at their respective institutions. In his opinion, correctional officers play a very important role in guiding inmates to the right path. “The potential for the proliferation of

extremist ideologies would grow considerably if terrorist inmates are not educated in the right way,” he said.

Besides Kadek, other terrorism victims were also involved in the training. They were Nanda Olivia Daniel (a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing), Agus Kurnia (a victim of the 2016 Thamrin Bombing), Dewi Sunarti (an indirect victim of the 2017 Kampung Melayu Bombing), and Desmonda Paramartha (a victim of the 2018 Surabaya Bombing). They met with correctional officers in the hopes that their stories could motivate terrorist inmates to leave the world of terrorism. [LADW]

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Synergy between Victims, Terrorist Inmates, and Officers: Building Peace in Correctional Facilities

Two men engaged in friendly conversation that afternoon. Once in a while, they laughed; at other times they hugged. The younger one was Choirul Ihwan, a former terrorist inmate. The other man, aged around fifty, was an officer from the Surabaya prison in Porong, East Java. They both spoke about the time they were together in the same prison facility about three to four years ago.



▶ AIDA hands a token of appreciation to Sri Puguh Budi Utami, the Director General of Corrections, during AIDA's Advanced Level Training, "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers" in Depok from Wednesday to Thursday (4–5/9/2019).

The meeting between Choirul and his former mentor took place during AIDA's advanced level training activity, "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers: Learning from Dialogues between Terrorist Inmates and Victims", organized in Depok, West Java, in early September this year. While it was not their first meeting after Choirul completed his jail term, both men seized the opportunity to renew their friendship since they had not met in a long time.

The training was attended by fourteen correctional officers from various regions and six representatives from the Directorate General of Corrections, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. At the training, the participants shared their experiences dealing with terrorist inmates at their own facilities, including their experiences hosting dialogues between terrorist inmates and victims, a series of activities initiated by AIDA. "I've gotten so much knowledge from this training; it is difficult to

express with words what was felt in my heart," said one representative from the Directorate General of Corrections.

When he was serving his jail term, Choirul was invited to meet a terrorism survivor, facilitated by AIDA. Hearing of the survivor's condition, Choirul was deeply regretful ever joining an extremist group. The meeting helped strengthen his commitment to campaign for peace. "Even though I hadn't been involved personally in the bomb attack, I apologized to the victim anyway to show my sincerest regret and repentance," he said.

Besides Choirul, the training also presented AF, another former terrorist who was once an inmate at Magelang prison, Central Java. He told about his life journey: when he joined an extremist network, his rehabilitation at the correctional facility, and when he eventually chose a peaceful way of life. In his opinion,

"I've gotten so much knowledge from this training; it is difficult to express with words what was felt in my heart."

the officers' treatment of him was one of the factors that contributed to his transformation and decision to leave his former terrorist group. He said that the correctional officers managed to balance between professionalism and amicable interaction with terrorist inmates.

In addition to the officers' good approach, another factor that contributed to AF's transformation was his personal meeting with terrorism survivors, as facilitated by AIDA about three years ago. He felt very sad hearing firsthand the direct impact of a terrorist act on a survivor. The victim's skin condition was visibly different from most people's, which the survivor told him was because of the severe burns he suffered in the bomb blast. "I was terribly saddened. I could only pray that God would reward all his good deeds because he had suffered much, and he faced it with great courage," he said.



► (From right to left) Nanda Olivia Daniel, a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing; Jihan Talib, a victim of the 2017 Kampung Melayu Bombing; and Wenny Angelina, a victim of the 2018 Surabaya Bombing, share their stories during the training.

Dik. AIDA

In this training, three terrorism victims shared their stories. One after another, Nanda Olivia Daniel (a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing), Jihan Talib (a victim of the 2017 Kampung Melayu Bombing), and Wenny Angelina (a victim of the 2018 Surabaya Bombing) shared their experiences dealing with the many challenges in the wake of their respective terrorist attacks. An attack targeting the Saint Mary the Inviolable Catholic Church in Surabaya on 13 May 2018 had not only injured Wenny, but also claimed the lives of her little children. Towards the participants, she admitted that she did not borne any grudge against the terrorists. She said she has fully put her life in God's hands. Her willingness to join AIDA and share her life experiences were the manifestation of her dedication to promoting peace.

"If my story can be a blessing for other people, it can also be a blessing for myself," she said.

The victims' stories aroused the training participants' emotions. While trying to contain his tears, an officer from Pasir Putih facility in Nusakambangan responded to the victims' testimonies. He considered Nanda, Jihan, and Wenny as very strong women. Their life experiences have inspired him to improve

himself so that he could do a better job as a mentor for terrorist inmates.

Sri Puguh Budi Utami, the Director General of Corrections, was also present to officially open the training. In her opening speech, Sri Puguh expressed her hope that correctional officers could learn from one another and share their knowledge about the most appropriate approach for developing and mentoring terrorist inmates. "Experiences are of great importance because we have to deal with 526 terrorist inmates. The positive results can be seen in Mr. AF and Mr. Choirul, both of

whom have undergone a great transformation in correctional facilities," she said.

The Director General expressed her support for the creation of synergy between victims, terrorist inmates, and correctional officers, in order to promote peace in Indonesia. "I need to emphasize here that, together with AIDA, our nation can someday turn its attention to other issues, and the issue of terrorism can finally be solved. With AIDA's help, we can say goodbye to terrorism. I believe that this is possible, because I've met these extraordinary ladies, the terrorism survivors, as well as Mr. Choirul and Mr. AF, who have devoted their lives to speeding up the process of clearing our country of terrorism and its supporters," said Sri Puguh.

Award for AIDA

On a different occasion, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights gave out appreciation awards to a number of individuals and institutions, one of which was AIDA. AIDA received this honor because of its relentless assistance in helping rehabilitate terrorist inmates in correctional facilities. Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly, the Law Minister, accompanied by Sri Puguh Budi Utami, the Director General of Corrections,



► Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly, the Minister of Law and Human Rights, hands over an award of appreciation to Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director, in Cilacap on Thursday (22/8/2019).

Dik. AIDA



► Participants in a game session during the program.

Dik. AIDA

handed the appreciation award to Hasibullah Satrawi, AIDA Director.

The award was given out during the inauguration ceremony of the Special Correctional Facility Class IIA Karanganyar Nusakambangan, Cilacap regency, Central Java, on Thursday (22/8).

AIDA Director expressed his thanks to the Minister, the Director General, as well as their ministerial staff, for their support and assistance with AIDA programs. "I do hope that this award will motivate us to continue to do our best in our various programs in correctional facilities," he said. [LADW]

From Victims to Peace Ambassadors

Sounds of laughter and joyful smiles emanated from the people who were gathered in Sofyan Hotel, Jakarta, that morning. They soon engaged in hearty conversations, enquiring after one another's health and talking about various things, for they had not met each other for quite a long time. Such amicable interactions demonstrated their strong commitment to strengthening relationships among the members of the Kuningan Forum (Forum Kuningan or FK), a platform of communication among victims of the terrorist bombing that took place in the Kuningan area, South Jakarta, in 2004. All these took place during the 15th anniversary of the Kuningan Bombing, held in Jakarta in mid-August this year.

The event was organized by FK and the Indonesian Survivors Foundation (Yayasan Penyintas Indonesia or YPI), with full support of AIDA. By attending the gathering, it is hoped that the survivors could strengthen one another. Sudirman A. Talib,

was in line with the anniversary's theme: "Transforming Victims into Survivors". He believed that the experiences of his fellow terrorism survivors could serve as a source of inspiration for the general public.

Included in the event's agenda that morning

Melayu Bombing).

Josuwa spoke about his struggle to overcome the impact of the bomb incident. For two months, he suffered severe trauma on top of the physical injuries to his legs because of bomb shrapnel. He tried very hard to regain as much courage as he could during his recovery process. Finally, he accepted the tragedy as part of God's blessing. "First, I had to accept

"We must fight injustice, not by committing other injustices, but by spreading peace."



► (From left to right) Ni Luh Erniati, a victim of the 2002 Bali Bombing; Josuwa Ramos, a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing; Agus Kurnia, a victim of the 2016 Thamrin Bombing; and Jihan Talib, a victim of the 2017 Kampung Melayu Bombing, in Jakarta on Sunday (15/9/2019).

FK Chairman, encouraged all survivors to overcome their grief following the terrorist attacks.

"Don't give in to terrorism! Let's not fear and not submit ourselves to the atrocities of terrorist acts! Let's strengthen our spirit; let's spread peace! We must respond to violence with peace. We must fight injustice, not by committing other injustices, but by spreading peace," he said in his opening speech.

Sucipto Hari Wibowo, YPI Chairman, motivated all terrorism victims to regain their spirit, to overcome their trauma, and to face various life challenges with great optimism. By developing personal strength, the victims could transform themselves, not to become victims to be pitied but more than that: to become ambassadors of peace. "We want all victims to become real survivors, not only physically but also mentally, so that they may lead a better life in the future," he said.

Sucipto, who is a Kuningan Bombing survivor, emphasized that point because it

was a sharing session among fellow terrorism survivors across different terrorist incidents. Four victims were invited to speak onstage. They were Ni Luh Erniati (a victim of the 2002 Bali Bombing), Josuwa Ramos (a victim of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing), Agus Kurnia (a victim of the 2016 Thamrin Bombing), and Jihan Talib (a victim of the 2017 Kampung

the tragedy as a blessing from God," he said. Gradually, after his health got better, he started to join AIDA's peace campaign, including having dialogues with terrorist inmates in prison.

A number of representatives of government institutions attended the gathering that morning. Among them were representatives from Indonesia's Witness and Victim Protection Agency (Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi dan Korban or LPSK), National Counter-Terrorism Agency (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme or BNPT), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The event was also covered by several journalists from national media organizations. [LADW, TH]



► Survivors and invitees take photographs together after the event.



▶ Prof. Dr. Mahfud M.D. takes photographs with Josuwa Ramos (a survivor of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing) and Kurnia Widodo (a former terrorist perpetrator) during AIDA's "Gathering of Clerics: Strengthening Unity through Ibroh" in Surakarta on Saturday (31/8/2019).



▶ Sutarno, a survivor of the 2004 Kuningan Bombing, shares his story during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at SMAN 1 Sindang Indramayu on Tuesday (27/8/2019).



▶ AIDA hands over a token of appreciation to a school representative during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at SMAN 4 Probolinggo on Friday (9/8/2019).



▶ Asep Sukmayadi, the Head of Talent and Achievement Development Division, Senior High School Development Directorate, the Ministry of Education and Culture, delivers his speech during AIDA's Interactive Dialogue "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at MAN 1 Indramayu on Friday (30/8/2019).



▶ Participants and the AIDA Peace Team take photographs together after AIDA's Training "Promoting Terrorism Victims' Perspective among Correctional Officers" in Depok from Wednesday to Thursday (24–25/7/2019).



▶ Participants and the AIDA Peace Team take photographs together after AIDA's Interactive Dialogue "Learning Together to Become a Strong Generation" at SMAN 1 Lece, Probolinggo, on Tuesday (6/8/2019).



▶ Participants take a group photograph after AIDA's Short Course "Promoting Victims' Perspective in the Coverage of Terrorism Issues" in Jakarta from Wednesday to Thursday (3–4/7/2019).



▶ A scene from the 15th anniversary of the Kuningan Bombing, in Jakarta on Sunday (15/9/2019).

Maximizing the Role of Correctional Facilities to Create Peace

Correctional facilities can play a great role in efforts to build peace. Their existence is vital to prevent the proliferation of pro-violence ideologies, including terrorism. In order to achieve that goal, special treatment and approach are required to guide terrorist inmates in correctional facilities. As part of its peace campaigns in correctional facilities, AIDA has been cooperating with the Directorate General of Corrections since 2015. In early September this year, the editors of Suara Perdamiaan interviewed Sri Puguh Budi Utami, the Director General of Corrections, on the challenges to building peace behind bars. Below are the excerpts.

What is the vision of correctional facilities and the efforts taken to revitalize correctional facilities for the creation of peace in Indonesia? Could you please give us some illustration?

What we're dealing with here is human beings. They are people who at times might do undesirable things. Because of this, we do not focus only on time, that is, the period in which the inmates must serve their sentences, but we also focus on how we can, within that period of time, transform those inmates' thoughts and behaviors. That's the main principle: it's not just a matter of time, but also thoughts and behaviors. Therefore, when an inmate has completed his sentence after, say, five years, but he doesn't change at all, it means that we have failed. But, when he has completed even just one year of his entire sentence, but he changed during that time, it means that we are successful. So, we can only say that we are successful or not when our inmates have changed in terms of thoughts and behaviors, that is, when they become more aware, more receptive, and more productive.

How is the implementation so far?

New approaches and methods have been applied in several provinces. But we need resources, personnel, money, materials, methods, design. But the most important of all is qualified officers. Officers must act as personal mentors, and they are expected to speed up the transformation process. This must be applied not only when dealing with terrorist inmates, but also when dealing with other inmates. We already have the instruments, and we hope that we can lead them to become more productive and responsible individuals with high moral standards. Because of that, there'll be programs designed to improve their personality and self-sufficiency.

What is your opinion of the AIDA programs so far?

Are there any significant impact?

Clearly there are. We must realize that the pillars of the society

consist of observers like AIDA, mentors (the ones who provide guidance), mentees (the ones who receive guidance), and the government, and all of them must work together to make positive contributions. Taking AIDA as an example: AIDA, with its unique perspective and relevant resources, can help bring transformation to those inmates. This, of course, will lead to a significant change.

What about your own vision of peace-building efforts in correctional facilities?

What I really want is that this approach is applied not only to terrorist inmates, but also drug-related criminals. If this approach works on terrorism-related cases, it is not impossible that it can also be applied to other cases. If everything is well documented and well managed, it will certainly bring great benefits to everyone. [LA]



SURVIVORS DATA FORM

For our survivor friends who have yet to and are willing to complete our survivors data form, please contact AIDA at 0812 1935 1485 & 0878 7505 0666, or sekretariat@aida.or.id, and include your full name, address, contact number and e-mail (if you have one). Our AIDA personnel will send you a Data Form by snail mail or e-mail.