European Muslim, Radicalism, Terrorism, and Democracy: A Reflection

Alfian[1], Herdi Sahrasad[2], Dedy Tabrani[3], Al Chaidar[4]
[1,4]*University of Malikussaleh, Aceh, Indonesia*
[2]*Graduate School of Islamic Studies, University of Paramadina, Indonesia*
[3]*Perguruan Tinggi Ilmu Kepolisian, Jakarta, Indonesia*
alfian@unimal.ac.id

Abstract

This article argues that, in the future, Europe Union (EU) is predicted to continue to confront the expression of Islamization of acts of terror and radicalism by Muslim youth amid the complexity of the problem and amid the fact that government security forces in Belgium and other European countries are often uncomplicated, low-paid secret agents, open to the movement of fundamentalism, and the proliferation of the black market of weapons. All this has made Europe a very vulnerable area against terrorist attacks and militarism in cloak of religion. Indeed, a problem and a challenge to be solved amid issues of potential cracking or collapse of the Europe Union.

I. Introduction

The author's trip to Europe (Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany) in February 2018 (previously we visited Europe in 2017 and 2016) further convinced us that in relation to democracy, human rights and the socio-cultural and economic sphere, the life of Muslims in Europe face complex problems and challenges that are not easy even though they have lived and lived in the area for two or three generations. Muslims are the second largest religious population in Europe. European Muslims are like a cultural mosaic consisting of various ethnic backgrounds, languages, religious, cultural traditions and political views.

White snow was falling in the cold sub-zero degrees Celsius morning when we entered the outskirts of Amsterdam in February 2018. The situation seemed cool and calm as usual. The Netherlands, an integral part of the European Union, has a Muslim immigrant population of about 857,000 people or 5% of the total Dutch population. Muslim immigrants living in the Netherlands are mostly from Morocco, Turkey and Suriname. They previously came to the Netherlands as guest workers because the Netherlands lacked manual labor resources.

Their arrival was then followed by the arrival of refugees, asylum seekers, job seekers and other Muslim immigrants from a number of countries with Islamic backgrounds such as Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Indonesia, and so on. (Karim 2010). Anti-Muslim sentiment erupted after the tragedy of WTC 11/9/2001, followed by the murder of Theo van Gogh (a Dutch film producer) by a radical Muslim immigrant from Morocco, M Bouyeri who is also a member of the Hoftstad Network (a radical Islamic group in the Netherlands).

5134

Van Gogh is known as a producer of films that are considered "provocative" on Islamic issues, who in 2004 produced a film entitled Submission with Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a member of the Dutch parliament and a former Muslim as a scriptwriter containing negative/harassing images. over women in Islam. (Jackson Society, 2017). The incident of van Gogh's murder triggered the emergence of anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant movements by Geert Wilders and similar groups, and became a turning point for anti-Islam sentiments among the Dutch government or citizens. (Arbi, 2016)

II. Review of Literature

This horizontal tension situation also prompted the Dutch government to securitize. The securitization approach was developed by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever and their collaborators within the framework of a working group called the Copenhagen School, where securitization is briefly defined as "… the move that takes … beyond the established rules of the game and frames the issue as either a special kind of politics or as above politics" (Buzan,1988). Here, perceptions of security and threats depend significantly on how actors perceive and shape the threat rather than the actual state of the threat. In this case of securitization, the security forces may act more, for reasons of security, even though the action is beyond the normal limit because it often violates privacy and human rights. (Tinka Veldhuis dan Edwin Bekker, 1988 and 2011)

Researchers and academics in the Netherlands remind me that there is a strong suspicion from the public towards some Muslims who have recently been revivalized, if not radicalized. But don't be complacent, it turns out that the European Community still suffers from a collective memory related to radical Muslims where this Jihadist group in recent years has succeeded in carrying out terrorist attacks/bombings in Brussels, Paris, London, Berlin, Madrid, and Barcelona. The act of terrorism has now become a nightmare continuation of a series of terrorist attacks in Western Europe in recent years. (Duncan,2016)

European elites complain about the weak sharing of information within and between European countries, hampered by weak institutional relations, lack of regular contact, lack of trust and even failure to agree to the transliteration of Arabic-derived names. (Ayu Rahmadani, 2015). Therefore, analysts believe, European leaders should be able to improve institutional coordination and cooperation, which should be an urgent priority. So far the idea of a European intelligence agency has developed, articulated by some European politicians and officials, to gain support from EU member states. (Williamns, 2003).

The nightmare of terrorism still haunts Europe, including the Netherlands, because the sense of security is starting to tear. To illustrate, in mid-August 2017, attacks in Barcelona and the nearby Spanish city of Cambrils killed 16 people and injured more than 130 a few days before an assailant with a knife in Finland killed two people and injured eight others (Elhady, 2015). Attacks earlier this year in London and Manchester, England, left dozens dead and hundreds injured. The European community generally does not forget the terrorist acts in Paris, namely the shooting of the Charlie Hebdo magazine office, the Brussels airport bombing, Bomm London, Madrid and others that made Europeans suspect Muslims as the main actors of terrorism that is rampant in the region.

In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in both the number of attacks and deaths from terrorism in Europe. As someone who studies European security issues, analysts see three main factors contributing to this development: First, Europe's large and often poorly integrated Muslim population. Second, Europe is close to unstable areas such

as the Middle East and North Africa, and Fourth, the condition of the new generation of European Muslims (second and third generations) who are very vulnerable to Jihadist campaigns and doctrines and experience deculturation or identity confusion. (Gonta, 2017)

The European public, politicians and media have expressed outrage over the series of attacks that have plagued Belgium, Britain, France, Spain and Germany over the past years, as well as the Orlando shooting in the US, but the level of outrage and media coverage has never been to such a level. as high and intense as terrorism strikes other parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East. This means that the Western media are more concerned and biased towards their own interests in terms of terrorism, and consider acts of terror in the Middle East not as important as acts of terrorism that occurred in Europe and the US.

This in turn gave rise to a skewed perception in the West that this was a "battle of civilizations" being fought. This obscures the neglect of the fact that most of the terrorism perpetrated by groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS is perpetrated against Arabs and Muslim-majority countries. According to Priadi et al (2018) the presence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) has caused shock in the world. ISIS, which first proclaimed itself as a state on 9 April 2013, attracted international attention because its members came from various countries, This erroneous perception then leads to the image that all Muslims are terrorists, which fuels petty racism. The calls by the likes of Donald Trump to discriminate against Muslims completely ignore the fact that Muslims and Arabs are actually at the forefront of this war on terror, sacrificing their lives to free the world from the attacks and actions of jihadists.

This illustrates in the minds of the elite and Western society that the cause of all this is a radical religious ideology, that it is a problem inherent in Arab and Muslim "blood and DNA". In reality, however, Muslim extremism is primarily the result of practical imperialism that arm, train, and financially support the terrorist group for the geopolitical expansion of the United States. Support from "the West, the Gulf states and Turkey" to the Syrian opposition which is dominated by "Salafi, Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS and Al-Qaeda in Iraq has played an important role in the growth of Jihadist terrorism in Europe and elsewhere.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 Netherlands and Europe

The Netherlands, as an integral part of Europe is a multi-cultural area where Islam is also part of European culture and civilization. But in recent years, Europe has faced social, ethnic and religious upheavals and tensions, especially in Germany, England, France and the Netherlands and Belgium, especially related to European efforts to combat and tackle extremism of a new generation of Islamists. The Netherlands itself is a terrorist threat, but its moderate attitude and intensive friendly approach make Muslim terrorists refrain from "hitting hard" on the Netherlands as in the case of the terror attack in Belgium.

European society is experiencing anxiety and anxiety about how to integrate Muslims into Western culture, while for some Muslims in Europe, they are now experiencing deculturation (destruction and absence of culture), identity void and becoming adherents of jihadist ideology which is actually counter-productive. Some Muslims seem to experience anomie, disorientation and believe more in "acts of violence" as a shortcut to heaven in the name of "fighting for God"- borrowing the discourse of Karen Armstrong. The Muslim minority group within the Muslim community, which is

already a minority in Europe, seems to be the scourge or ghost of terrorism as a "new radicalism" on the blue continent.

Jihadist-style radicalism that encourages acts of "religious-based violence" in Europe does not only threaten the nation's pluralism, or is contrary to human rights. But it also endangers the integrity of European society and tarnishes the image of Islam and makes it difficult for Muslims to build trust in the Western world, to build interfaith dialogue and global peace between civilizations,

For some Westerners, as Hans Kung, President of the Stiftung Weltethos (Foundation for a Global Ethics) said, the most violent, fanatical and evil political struggles are those colored, inspired and legitimized by religion. "The most fanatical and cruelest political struggles are those that have been colored, inspired, and legitimized by religion" (Sumanto Al-Qurtuby, 2017). In this context, perhaps the most violent, fanatical and evil political struggles are those colored, inspired and legitimized by religion.

Hans Kung's view may be an exaggeration because of the fact that so far, as Karen Armstrong notes—more violence, cruelty, and terrible human tragedy in the span of human history are caused by factors outside of religion such as power politics, racism, ethnocentrism, colonialism, secularism. , atheism, communism, capitalism, and so on. But in the future, it is very possible that religion that is misinterpreted and misused, has a strong potential to become a source of very terrible conflict and catastrophe, as Samuel Huntington said about the clash of civilizations, the 9/11 WTC bombings, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the history of the war. The cross of the past, in the eyes of the West, has shown that matter.

Grahame Lucas, an analyst with the German media Deutsche Welle , often reminds that Europe must examine more deeply and carefully the root causes that trigger discontent among young Muslims living in Europe, which drives them to resort to violence and terrorism. Because without careful and in-depth study and research, it is very possible that Europe will face radical Jihadist terrorism for years or decades, with attacks on cities, train stations or airports and even shopping malls that are disturbing to the public.

The core problems of Muslim terrorism in Europe include: First, Europe is facing a concerted campaign of terrorist acts, which are organized and directly supported by actors who have affiliation with ISIS or Al Qaeda in the Middle East even though the main figures of these terrorist organizations have been killed, removed or imprisoned. , but their tissues and cells are still scattered everywhere in secret. The attacks in Brussels, Paris, London, Madrid and Barcelona after just a few months after in Paris, revealed that the ISIS-affiliated terrorist network in Europe was much larger and more coordinated than European leaders had anticipated.(Mudzakir Amdjad, 2011) Second, the second and third generations of Muslim immigrants in Europe fail to integrate with European society, instead they prefer to gather and associate with fellow Muslims who are marginal, poor and prone to being exposed to religious radicalism. There are ustadz from Saudi and Middle East who spread Salafism, motivate and encourage them to take the path of Jihadism because they feel foreign, marginal and excluded from European acculturation. Third, Europe does not have a tradition of attracting and integrating immigrants, as the United States does. Germany, for example, in the late 1950s recruited hundreds of thousands of workers from Southern Europe and Turkey to replace the millions of German productive youth who died in World War II. But their status was "guest worker" and had to return to their home country if Germany no longer needed the manpower. Fourth, other countries in Europe such as Belgium, the Netherlands, England, and France, they adopted a policy of recruiting workers from former colonial countries, especially from North Africa and the Middle East, without any political acceptance that they would later be integrated

into the country. Europe as his homeland.(Ainul Arif,2017)   Fifth, there is a strong tendency for the second and third generations of immigrants to come to Europe to feel disappointed or very dissatisfied with life in Europe. They live poor or marginal, feel not fully accepted by their peers as members of a community. In fact, many of them fail in school, only hang out with fellow migrants and their language skills are poor. Their chances of integration, acculturation and acceptance by European society are very small. So they are a complex dual minority, namely a minority in culture and religion, and experience ignorance and poverty compared to modern, progressive, advanced and secular white Europeans. Sixth, the actual condition shows that Muslims throughout Europe are suddenly very surprised by the increasing number of anti-Islam movements initiated by extreme right groups in various countries. These situations of refusal have triggered the younger generation of European Muslims to carry out jihad by joining the Islamic State militia in Syria and Iraq. Europe is worried that ex-jihadists who return from the battlefield will carry out acts of terror such as the assassination attack on the editor of Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

According to a report by the security services, in 2015-2017 more and more salafi followers in Germany said they were ready to go to Syria or Iraq to join the "holy war". In 2013 there were only 2,000 salafi members who intended to carry out jihad, in 2016 it rose to 7,000 people. The question now is how to give this younger generation a sense of identity as European citizens. The reality is that many drop out of school, do not learn a branch of the profession and seek refuge in radical Islamist groups. The answer is: not rejection but deeper integration and acculturation.

Europe is in dire need of immigrants, given the negative population growth. More than that, we also need immigration politics based on the needs of the job market. America and Australia have implemented it. But why not Europe? For Germany, what is needed is an open attitude to recognize the vital role of immigrants in the community. And new, qualified immigrants will play the role of a safety net for our common future. Strictly speaking, immigrants who feel part of society will not fall into terrorists. However, for Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the UK, it is clear that their views and interests are different from those of Germany. And that is the complexity of the problem of terrorism in Europe, which we should not ignore. Because every explosion of terror in Europe will cause a resonance in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and other strategic areas.

3.2 The Netherlands and Terrorism Issues in Europe

Again, in recent years, the Netherlands and Europe in general, have faced social, ethnic and religious upheavals and tensions, especially in Germany, Britain, France and the Netherlands and Belgium, especially in relation to Europe's efforts to combat and tackle extremism of a new generation of Islamists. The Netherlands and Europe generally experience anxiety and anxiety about how to integrate Muslims into Western culture, while for some Muslims in Europe they are now experiencing deculturation (destruction and absence of culture), identity void and becoming adherents of jihadist ideology which is actually counter-productive.

Although the power of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) has been destroyed, as a precaution against terrorism, Dutch government officials seem to remain vigilant and tighten surveillance at the entrances to the country, including at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. We arrived in Schiphol under minus 1 degree Celsius cold and we see strict scrutiny by immigration officials of people they deserve to be suspicious of. "We don't want to be missed like Brussels was bombed by terrorists under the guise of religion," said J. Killearn, a Dutch engineer who sat next to me on the flight from Singapore-Amsterdam.

He has worked in Asia and Europe for more than ten years as a private corporate executive of global class.

The Netherlands is an integral part of the European Union which agreed to declare war on terrorism which has claimed hundreds of lives and caused trillions of rupiah in property losses. Imagine, due to terrorist attacks in France, Spain, Germany and Belgium, social and economic shocks hit the people of the region, Brussels Belgium, France and Spain reveal that the ISIS-affiliated terrorist network in Europe is much larger and more coordinated than European leaders think.

It is now clear that dozens of Muslims were involved in preparing, assisting or supporting the Brussels, Belgium, France and Spain attacks. The sophistication of the Jihadist network's operations is very visible, and to them it is very important, as demonstrated by the terrorist members' ability to use combat weapons in Paris, their success in making large-scale bombs with the volatile chemical compound TATP, and their apparently strict and rigorous use. escape detection or encrypted communication. The large number of terrorists involved in these attacks clearly appear to have improved their skills and expertise in the wars in Syria and Iraq before returning to use them in European cities in gripping acts of terrorism.

The Netherlands has arrested a number of terrorists wearing religious robes in the country, Amsterdam does not want to be missed, such as the terrorist attacks at the airports in Brussels, France and Spain which were attacked by terrorists on a massive scale. For the Dutch people, the terrorists are 'aliens' who are completely unwanted. EU analysts note that travel agencies and various other parties involved in the tourism industry have acknowledged that the main reason tourists – especially Chinese and Japanese tourists, who happen to be the biggest tourists/shoppers in Europe – prefer not to visit France and Belgium out of fear. of terrorism and security. Tourism in Belgium plummeted following the terrorist attack at Brussels airport.

Tourism in France fell sharply after the Charlie Hebdo Paris Massacre in January 2015 and the November attacks (at the Bataclan nightclub, and restaurant Au Petit Cambodge) that same year. The Netherlands does not want to experience the same thing. Each new terrorist attack always damages tourism in the city, and country, where the attack took place.

The United States has to spend more than $1 trillion on homeland security, and the European Union countries collectively spend almost the same amount. (Stephen Castle, 2017). At the same time, the European community must reduce spending tens of billions of dollars due to lost revenue due to declining tourism due to terror attacks under the guise of religion (Islam), and in the terrorist perception, it must be a huge success for terrorist-style economic jihad. Unfortunately, the French terrorism expert who once taught at Harvard, Prof. Olivier Roy, gently tells us that terrorist attacks with the ideology of religious radicalism in the West are only "of little strategic value" and "cannot weaken the enemy."

Is Oliver Roy's opinion correct? The new costs, for security, of a trillion US dollars in the United States and a trillion US dollars in the European Union, and tens of billions of lost tourist dollars, are all due to terrorism. So that Oliver Roy's view must be criticized or corrected because it cannot be denied that terrorism is very destructive even though it is considered unable to weaken the West as their enemy. Academic Oliver Roy also does not consider the act of terrorism as an act of radical economic jihad.

IV. Conclusion

In terms of tackling terrorism that damages tourism and security, the Netherlands has revoked the citizenship (passports) of four terrorists under the new anti-terrorism law in force in the country. These four people have joined the ISIS terrorist organization in conflict areas, which has links to Belgium, France, England and the Netherlands (Netherlands). The four terrorists by the Dutch media were insinuated / ridiculed as "Syrian travelers" known as Driss B, Noureddin B, Anis Z, and Hatim R. Driss B, and Noureddin B were sentenced last year. Anis Z and Hatim R were sentenced in 2015. Each of them was sentenced to six years in absentia, for being members of the terrorist organization (ISIS).

The Netherlands has passed a new law that explicitly gives the government great powers to revoke citizenship. Even if that person has not been convicted of a crime. So far, Amsterdam media reports at least 280 Dutch nationals have traveled to join the Islamic State terrorist group in Syria and Iraq since 2011. It was even reported that at least 190 Dutch people remained there. To this day, it is suspected that there are still a number of Dutch terrorists who have joined ISIS or other terrorist groups in the Middle East.

So far, the Netherlands has been spared the wave of terrorist attacks that have hit several of its neighbors such as Belgium, France, Spain and Germany. Vigilance continues to be strengthened because in the perception of Holland's elite, terrorists are believed to see the Netherlands as a target. Therefore, it makes sense that the Netherlands will continue to maintain surveillance because terrorism is a European society's nightmare for quite a long time.

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