

So ladies and gentlemen,

I can go on because I did not sleep last night but I think suffice for me to be given the honour today, to officiate, not to discuss but to officiate this precious book written and yet another contribution of Hashim Kamali to the world of academia and of course to the world of policies which we, the policy makers need it.

And that is why in the new government, three principles or the three trusts were laid down, which are ‘*rahmatan lil ‘alamin*’, ‘*maqasid al-shariah*’ and the Malaysian model. That actually explains my one-hour speech that I have just given.

In sum, there is a marked difference between the finely blended outlook of the Qur’an on the punishment and that of the scholastic jurisprudence as in many ways narrowed down the Qur’anic outlook. And it is unfortunately the latter that has dominated judicial practice and juristic scholarship. Imitation or *taqlid* which has been mentioned and pointed out by the Professor is still quite strong in such that it will take a degree of intellectual originality and rigor to bring a meaningful change. Yet there is so little alternative for 21st century Muslim but to attain a complete overhaul of the conventional approach by restoring the more comprehensive Qur’anic vision to the *hudud* and Islamic criminal laws.

Wassalamu ‘alaikum warahmatullahi ta’ala wabarakatuh

**Seminar: Muslim Extremists Creating Divisions in the Muslim
Ummah: Prospects and Problems
(IAIS Malaysia, 15 January 2020)**

Mohammad Mahbubi Ali

Islam has been in the spotlight since 9/11. The world community has become entrapped by the narrative that Islam is dangerous and Muslims are problematic. Adjectives applied to Muslims, like extremist, terrorist, jihadist, fundamentalist, are being propagated as unquestioned reality and truth, which gives credence to the Islamophobia agenda.

On 15 January, IAIS Malaysia organised a seminar under the central theme: “Muslim Extremists Creating Divisions in the Muslim Ummah”. The seminar

featured distinguished speakers in the field and was officiated over by Senator Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Ibni Raja Ahmad Baharuddin Shah, the Trengganu State Chairman of the National Trust Party.

The event comprised two main sessions. The morning session featured three prominent panellists. Dr Mohammad Hasan Zamani, a lecturer at Al-Mostafa University, Iran, presented on ways to overcome the *takfiri* crisis and model an ideal Islamic society. Dato Wira Abdul Ghani Samsudin, director of SHURA Malaysia, gave his insights into the Islamic approach to combating extremism and terrorism. Subsequently, Prof. Dr Danial bin Mohd. Yusof, a principal researcher at the Extremism Analytical Research Unit (EARU) ISTAC-IIUM, reminded us of the threat violent extremism poses in the digital age.

The evening session presented four main panellists. Mohd. Azmi bin Abdul Hamid, President of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organisation (MAPIM), discussed the Islamophobia agenda in the West. Dr Muslim Imran, Director of the Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia (PCOM), enlightened his audience about the Palestinian struggle and the challenge of Israeli-sponsored extremist groups. Meanwhile, Prof. Dr Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid, professor of political science, University Sains Malaysia (USM), uncovered the reality of *takfirism* in contemporary Malaysia. The final panellist, Dr Chandra Muzaffar, President of JUST World, shared his thoughts on the role of imperialism and extremism in dividing the Muslim ummah.

The seminar attracted many participants from different backgrounds, ranging from academia to human right activists, NGOs and the public at large.

Forum: The Impact of Climate Change and Human-Made Hazards on Marine Environments in Malaysia (IAIS Malaysia, 20 January 2020)

Muhammad Fakhurrrazi Ahmad

Anthropological hazards and climate change are threatening many natural resources and areas, including the sea, which is home to an astonishing array of biodiversity and marine ecosystems. Therefore, in this age of climate emergency, every citizen of the world has to examine their role in protecting the planet, especially as every faith teaches us to live sustainably with nature within a cyclical economy.

On 20 January 2020, a forum on ‘The Impact of Climate Change and Human-Made Hazards on Marine Environments in Malaysia’ was jointly organised by