

Ladies and gentlemen,

23. As a closing remark, it is my utmost hope that this conference will be an effective platform for discourse and germination of ideas and produce practical and dynamic solutions for the benefit of the people, religion, and country. Through the invocation of *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, I hereby declare that the ‘*International Conference on Islam, Sustainability and Resilience 2021*’ is officially open.
24. Thank you.

**Regional Symposium: The Ethics of War and Humanitarian Principles  
in the Perspective of South-East Asian Ulama  
(Zoom Platform and IAIS Facebook Live, 2 December 2021)**

*Muhamad Sayuti Mansor*

On the 2 December 2021, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Journal al-Jamiah of the State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta, Indonesia organised the regional symposium *The Ethics of War and Humanitarian Principles in the Perspective of South-East Asian Ulama*. It was a culmination of a one-year partnership between the three organisers exploring the important contributions made by Southeast Asian Islamic scholars to humanitarianism and the ethics of war. The symposium was moderated by Dr Ahmad Badri Abdullah, IAIS Associate Fellow, who kickstarted the event by giving brief opening remarks followed by welcoming remarks by Mrs Biljana Milosevic, Head of ICRC Regional Delegation for Malaysia. Professor Dato’ Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia, then opened the discussion with his illuminating keynote speech on “Islam and Peace” followed by introductory remarks by Mr Dominic Earshaw, the Regional Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, ICRC.

The symposium featured presentations from three scholars from Malaysia and Indonesia who presented their original research on the tradition of Islamic humanitarianism in Southeast Asia. The first presenter, Muhammad Adam Abd Azid from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), demonstrated the scholastic legacy and contributions of Syeikh Idris al-Marbawi to the Islamic concept of warfare and *jihad* in the Malay World, especially during British

colonialism and the Japanese invasion of Malaya. Al-Marbawi's comprehensive guidelines included the protected status of the elderly, women, and children, as well as prohibitions against the mutilation of fallen enemies, as well as animals and plants. The second presentation was entitled "Saving Life and Limiting Means and Methods of Warfare: Overview from Five Indonesian Mufassir" by Ulya Fikriyati from IAIN Madura, Indonesia. She gave an in-depth comparative analysis between the classical Islamic tradition and contemporary Indonesian exegetes (*mufassirin*) on the development and evolution in interpretation of the Quranic verses on the concepts of *Jus in Bello* (rules of warfare) and *Jus ad Bellum* (right to war). The third and last presentation was by Muhammad Yuanda Zara from Yogyakarta State University, Indonesia, who sought to explore the contribution of the Muhammadiyah movement in Indonesia concerning the status of civilians during the Japanese invasion in 1941-1942. His analysis was primarily based on Muhammadiyah's weekly magazines published by its Surakarta (Central Java) branch between December 1941 and February 1942. The three-hour symposium was summed up by a lively exchange of questions and answers between the participants and panellists.

### **Seminar: Introducing Persian Language, Arts and Literature (IAIS Facebook Live, 10 February 2022)**

*Nurul Ain Norman*

This event was organised to emphasise the importance of Persian language, art, and literature as an essential aspect of Islamic civilisation. The seminar revisited Persian as a crucial research tool in the humanities and served as a survey for interest in upcoming workshops. At the beginning of his presentation, Professor Dr Amir Zekrgoo, a professorial fellow at Melbourne University, highlighted the evolution of the Persian script, with Islam playing a central role in developing Persio-Arabic literature, and the meaningful motifs and structures in Persian art and architecture. Professor Emeritus Muhammad Bukhari Lubis from the University of Pendidikan Sultan Idris shared how he learned the beauty of the Persian language through his extraordinary learning experience in three different countries: US, Iran and Malaysia. He was one of the pioneers who introduced the Persian language into higher education in Southeast Asia. Dr Ramin Hajianfard, a senior lecturer from the same university, presented a talk on Persian art and literature beyond the borders of ancient Iran. He mentioned