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Editorial:

Islam and the Peace of the World

Bali bombings has shocked the world. As far as we concerned, Indonesian Muslims would not deny that the bombers are Muslims. However, we would disagree that they represent Indonesian Muslims or even Muslims in the world in general. The present of *Al-Qaeda* networks in Southeast Asia or even the possibility of the existing of *Jemaah Islamiyah* in Indonesia would not convince people that their being Muslims are the same as the way Indonesian Muslims' believe in general. Muslims admit that Islam is interpretable. This believes would come about the present of various Islam in the world. In other words, Muslims acknowledge the variety interpretation of Islam from the traditional to the modern or even the liberal one. From the various groups of Muslims, however, there is something in common, i.e. Islam is religion of peace. So, the Bali bombings would, to some extend, worsened the image of Islam. Finally, a new stigma is attached to Islam, terrorism. Of course, every Muslim would irritate to have this new label, as it should just be owned by a tiny group of Muslims.

Al-Jami'ah is one of academic journals that represent modern views of Islam. As a way to disseminate Islam as a religion of peace in Indonesia, we argue that Islam should accommodate modern values including pluralism. We believe that Islam or Muslims would not live apart or separately from the real world. On the other hand, pluralism is *sunnatullah* as explicitly stated in one of famous traditions of the Prophet. As far as we Muslims are concerned, the image of Islam has already bad as there are a lot of wars in Islam as if Islam dislikes peaceful life. Therefore, the hardest duty of Muslims nowadays is to show to the world that Islam is *rahmatan li al-'alamiin* to make the image of Islam better and better. Someday, we believe that Islam would be accepted well by all people in all societies as happened after the *Fathu Makkah*; Islam would be a public religion and not an exclusive one.

To demonstrate its modern views, *Al-Jami'ah* accommodates to the diverse thought in Islam. From 8 articles in this volume, we proudly present some articles concerning modern views of Islam. Zuli Qadir's article discusses a new modern genre of Islamic thought i.e., Liberal Islam which has initially been set by some earlier modernists. Khoiruddin, Nuruddin, and Ro'fah's articles talk about Islamic point of views when deal with modernity such as ijihad etc. Nurhadi's article about Muslim's participation in Christmas Celebration is in accordance with the publication timing of the Journal. Other articles discuss how Islam deals with language and culture. In general, all the articles are significant for Muslims to have modern views of Islam. Finally, this standpoint would take part in the dissemination of the peaceful Islam in the world, especially in Indonesia. *Insyah Allah. (Muhammad Wildan).*