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PRESS RELEASE

Persecution of Ahmadiyya Community Indonesia continues as religious authority calls for it to be banned

The organisation regarded as Indonesia's highest religious authority the Majelis Ulema Indonesia (MUI) has submitted what it calls a 'Fatwa' against the Ahmadiyya Community in the Office of the Attorney-General. The MUI has called for the Ahmadiyya Community to be completely banned from the country.

The Head of the MUI has said **'We hope to settle the matter once and for all by getting the group banned.'**¹ He went on to say that the Ahmadiyya Community should not regard themselves as Muslim.

The Assistant Attorney-General has stated that a decision would be made next week at a meeting to be held by his Office. In relation to this the Press Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at Abid Khan has said:

"We urge the Office of the Attorney-General to reject the so called 'Fatwa' against the Ahmadiyya Community. If allowed the decision would signal the end for the freedoms guaranteed to minority groups under both the State Constitution and the International Conventions that Indonesia is party to.

The Ahmadiyya Community wishes no harm to anyone and simply desires that its members are able to practice their faith in a safe and peaceful environment."

The main objection of the MUI is that the Ahmadiyya Community does not believe the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to be the last Prophet. Clarifying the Ahmadiyya Community's position on this matter, Abid Khan said:

"The Holy Prophet Muhammad was the greatest of all Prophets and the final law bearing prophet. Any Prophet who comes after him must be from amongst his believers and subservient. Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Community, was such a person, who we believe was sent by God to re-establish the true peaceful teachings of Islam as taught by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)."

Over the past months the Ahmadiyya Community in Indonesia has been subjected to severe persecution. Members of the Community have been attacked, others have been forced to leave their homes and Mosques have been destroyed. If the Attorney-General's Office passes the proposed law then this would no doubt add a stamp of Government approval to the atrocities that have recently occurred and members of the Ahmadiyya Community would be at severe risk of further attacks.

End of Release

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¹Kiayi Haji Ma'ruf - Interview with The Strait Times, Wednesday, January 2, 2008