



MEDIA STATEMENT

11 May 2018

MUIS STATEMENT ON DETENTION ORDER AS ANNOUNCED BY MHA

1. The latest announcement by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the 27-year-old Singaporean detained under the Internal Security Act is a reminder that the threats of terrorism and self-radicalisation through exposure to online extremist propaganda remain alive. While the Singapore Muslim community rejects the ideology of exclusivism and extremism, we need families, friends and the wider community to remain vigilant and seek help from relevant authorities and agencies when in doubt.
2. Mohamed Faishal bin Mohd Razali became self-radicalised after listening to extremist preachers online. Senior Director, Religious Policy and Development, Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, said: “Exclusivist and extremist teachings, including propaganda videos by known terror groups that attempt to extol the virtues of violence by conflating it with jihad, are available online. That is why we must continue to protect our community by building in them religious and spiritual resilience through the correct and contextual appreciation of Islam and its teachings. This is the role that our accredited asatizah (religious teachers) play in guiding Muslims in their socio-religious life so that each Muslim embraces the compassionate and peaceful spirit of Islam and is well-equipped to immediately reject any form of extremist ideology.”
3. Dr Nazirudin added, “Families and friends must be vigilant, show support and help connect their loved ones to avenues where questions about religion and Islam will be answered by credible and trained asatizah.”
4. In response to combating extremist ideologies from propagating online, Muis through the Asatizah Youth Network (AYN) has embarked on several outreach efforts.^[1] Drop-in Sessions are available at the Masjid Al-Falah in Orchard Road, to counsel and address queries about exclusivism and armed conflict. Trained asatizah offer counselling and will enhance their online presence to offer support and guidance to our youth on social media.
5. A member of the AYN, Executive Imam and Head of Islamic Learning at Masjid Muhajirin, Ustaz Mohammad Khalid Rafi, said: “Religion has been exploited to justify violence and destruction with no regard to the sanctity of life. Islam calls for the

^[1] As announced in the recent Committee of Supply (COS) debate. Over the next 5 years, Muis will grow the AYN membership, conduct drop-in sessions for youths at Masjid Al-Falah in Orchard Road, and continue training asatizah in digital media engagements and youth counselling.

pursuit of peace and that should be our priority as Muslims. Let us not be misguided by disinformation promoted by such propaganda of hate. We believe in an Islam that promotes peace and harmony based on the tradition of love and respect. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had always chosen peace over war and conflict. Therefore, we should cherish our peaceful co-existence in multi-religious Singapore, and be among those who seek peace and extend friendship to others.”

6. Ustaz Khalid also shared that the drop-in consultation session provides a ‘safe space’ for anyone to consult an AYN asatizah on issues related to questionable concepts and doctrines. Ustaz Khalid is of the view that such sessions are crucial to discourage individuals from ideologies that may lead to radicalisation.
7. For anyone interested to attend the consultation session, please contact Masjid Al-Falah at 62353172 to arrange for an appointment.
8. Muis would like to urge the community to continue playing its part to refer family members and friends who need guidance on such issues to the appropriate help and intervention. The community must always remain vigilant in its fight against extremism and radicalisation.
9. The Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) is also ready to help and can be contacted at 1800-7747747 as well as via the RRG Mobile App. The community can also approach Muis at 63591199.
10. Muis would like to remind the community to seek religious instruction and guidance from our local religious teachers, who are registered under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS), and are guided by the Code of Ethics of the ARS.

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA