



MEDIA STATEMENT

20 June 2017

MUIS' STATEMENT ON RECENT DETENTION ORDERS ANNOUNCED BY MHA

1. What is common and disturbing in both the case of “Khairul” and the case of “Izzah” last week was that they were self-radicalised through the social media. In both cases, family and friends found out about their views and intentions but did not report the matter to the authorities. In the current case, what is even more disturbing is that young “Khairul” became even bolder through “Rizal” who encouraged him to pursue his wrongdoing instead of reporting the matter to the relevant authorities. We would like to emphasise that social media is not the appropriate platform to receive religious guidance and instruction, not least in understanding complex political and armed conflicts in the Muslim world. Exposure to the propaganda of extremist and radical groups online who exploit these conflicts to radicalise Muslims will misguide them to believe that participation in such conflicts is a religious duty.
2. Muis would like to reiterate that the best way to help our loved ones away from this path is to offer help early by referring them to experts in this area, as soon as we detect there may be something wrong. The Religious Rehabilitation Group is ready to help at 1800-7747747 as well as via the RRG Mobile App. The community can also approach Muis at 63591199.
3. On its part, Muis is working to develop the capabilities of local asatizah to be able to engage Singaporean Muslims on social media. Some of our younger asatizah have started to make some good headway in this area, and we hope to populate social media with socio-religious content which is appropriate to Singapore, and negate the dangerous content which had managed to mislead “Khairul” and “Izzah”.
4. There must be no let up by the community in its war against extremism and radicalisation, and Muis will work with our security agencies. If detected early, radicalised individuals can be given the appropriate help and be rehabilitated. Muis would like to urge the community to play its part to report family members and friends who exhibit such tendencies as soon as they are detected, so that appropriate help and intervention can be given, as this is the best way to help them.

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