



MEDIA STATEMENT

7 September 2017

MUIS' STATEMENT ON DETENTION ORDERS ISSUED BY MHA

The case of Imran Kassim, who was issued an Order of Detention under the Internal Security Act for intending to undertake armed violence overseas, is a reminder to the Singaporean Muslim community on the importance of maintaining vigilance and exercising caution and care when encountering extremist propaganda. After being influenced, Imran had sought to galvanise support for ISIS.

Thankfully his efforts to influence those close to him did not succeed, as they were resilient against such propaganda. Indeed they recognised the seriousness of the situation and the potential danger posed, and alerted the authorities.

Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Director of Religious Policy and Development, Muis, commenting on this incident, said: "We are strengthening efforts to develop the capabilities of our asatizah in countering the online reach of groups such as ISIS which are propagating extremist ideas promoting violence. In the meantime, if we come across family members or friends who appear to be exhibiting or promoting such ideas to us, or are in doubt about what is being taught, we should seek clarification from credible sources.

These extremist ideas may always not manifest themselves clearly, but may, for example, be a pattern of hard line views not consistent with our local context, or misrepresent and exploit political events abroad, painting them in religious terms. In such cases, it is best to consult a recognised and credible religious teacher. The Mandatory Asatizah Recognition Scheme is designed to ensure that asatizah provide religious guidance which is best suited for our community and our context."

Commenting further on the case of Shakirah, the young administrative assistant who established contact with foreign terrorist fighters and has subsequently been issued a restriction order, Dr Nazirudin added: "These foreign movements employ very sophisticated tactics to reach out to and recruit supporters via social media. They are quick to spot individuals who may be seeking attention and display vulnerabilities, and seek to establish personal links which they may then exploit.

While Shakirah was thankfully not radicalised by the religious ideology of ISIS, she nevertheless showed herself to be open to being influenced by their recruiters. We need to have a greater awareness of how radical groups attempt to recruit individuals, so that we do not fall into their trap.

We should also be on the lookout for and provide support for our friends and loved ones who, like Shakirah, may unwittingly come into contact with such recruiters. A close support network is a good shield which helps builds resilience against such influences.”

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