

**THE APPROACHES OF MUSLIM PREACHERS TOWARDS  
OVERCOMING THE MISUNDERSTANDING OF TAKFIR ISSUE  
AMONG MUSLIM SOCIETY**

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## AUTHOR DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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## ABSTRAK

Kesalahfahaman isu takfir dalam kalangan masyarakat Islam sudah wujud sejak sekian lama dahulu dan keadaan ini masih berlaku sehingga hari ini. Terdapat pelbagai faktor yang menyumbang kepada perkembangan isu *takfir* antaranya perbezaan pandangan di kalangan masyarakat Islam. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk memahami impak dan hukum *takfir* dari prinsip Islam dan juga mengkaji pendekatan yang boleh dilakukan bagi mengatasi salah faham isu *takfir* dari perspektif *dakwah*. Pemahaman yang jelas tentang *takfir* dapat membantu dalam mengatasi isu ini daripada terus tersebar di kalangan masyarakat. Para pendakwah juga perlu memainkan peranan yang signifikan dalam membendung salah faham isu takfir. Metod kajian yang digunakan bagi mengumpul data adalah melalui kajian teks dari pelbagai sumber seperti buku, jurnal, e-book dan lain-lain. Selain itu, sesi temu bual bersama beberapa orang ahli akademi yang mahir dalam bidang *dakwah* telah dijalankan bagi mendapatkan maklumat tambahan untuk melengkapkan penulisan kajian ini. Hasil kajian mendapati *takfir* hanya boleh dilakukan apabila terdapat bukti yang jelas, tiada paksaan daripada mana-mana pihak terhadap individu yang dikatakan *kafir*, dan penilaian yang mendalam oleh badan-badan atau institusi keagamaan yang bertanggungjawab dalam hal agama Islam. Individu atau kelompok tidak boleh sesuka hati mentakfirkan orang lain kerana ianya mampu memberikan impak yang besar di dunia dan akhirat.

## ABSTRACT

The misunderstanding of *takfir* issue among Muslim community already existed since long time ago and this situation still occur until this day. There are various factors contribute to the development of *takfir* issue, including differences in views among Muslim society. The objectives of this study are to understand the impact and rulings of *takfir* from Islamic principles and to analyze the approaches that can be taken to overcome the misunderstandings of *takfir* issue from *dakwah* perspectives. A clear understanding of *takfir* can help to address this issue from spreading further among the community. Muslim preachers need to play a significant role in curbing the misunderstanding of *takfir* issue. The methodology used to collect data involved textual analysis from various sources such as books, journals, e-books, and others. Additionally, interviews were conducted with several academicians proficient in *dakwah* field to obtain additional information to complete this study. The findings of the study indicate that *takfir* can only be performed when there is clear evidence, no coercion from any party against the individual being declared as *kafir*, and thorough assessment by religious institutions that are responsible in Islamic matters. Individuals or groups cannot arbitrarily declare others as *kafir* as it can have significant impacts in this world and the hereafter.

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## ملخص البحث

يعود سوء فهم قضية التكفير بين المجتمع المسلم إلى فترة طويلة، ولا يزال هذا الوضع مستمرًا حتى اليوم. هناك عوامل مختلفة تساهم في تطور هذه القضية، من بينها اختلاف الآراء بين أفراد المجتمع المسلم. الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو فهم تأثير وأحكام التكفير من مبادئ الإسلام، وكذلك دراسة الأساليب التي يمكن اتخاذها للتغلب على سوء فهم قضية التكفير من منظور الدعوة. يمكن للفهم الواضح للتكفير أن يساعد في معالجة هذه القضية ومنع انتشارها بين المجتمع. يجب على الدعاة أيضًا أن يلعبوا دورًا مهمًا في كبح سوء فهم قضية التكفير. المنهجية المستخدمة لجمع البيانات تضمنت تحليل النصوص من مصادر مختلفة مثل الكتب والمجلات والكتب الإلكترونية وغيرها. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، أجريت مقابلات مع عدد من الأكاديميين المتخصصين في مجال الدعوة للحصول على معلومات إضافية لاستكمال هذه الدراسة. أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن التكفير لا يمكن القيام به إلا عند وجود دليل واضح، وعدم وجود إكراه من أي طرف على الشخص الذي يُزعم كفره، وتقييم شامل من قبل الهيئات أو المؤسسات الدينية المسؤولة عن الأمور الإسلامية. لا يمكن للأفراد أو الجماعات أن يُكفروا الآخرين عشوائيًا، لأن ذلك يمكن أن يؤدي إلى تأثيرات كبيرة في الدنيا والآخرة.

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## GLOSSARY

<i>'Urf</i>	Customs.
<i>Al-Mutaghayyirat</i>	Changeable.
<i>Al-Mansukh</i>	The revoked law.
<i>Al-Nasikh</i>	Revoking <i>Syari'ah</i> law with a subsequent <i>Syari'ah</i> evidence.
<i>Al-Thawabit</i>	Unchangeable.
<i>Al-Wala' Wal-Bara'</i>	Loyalty and rejection.
<i>Amal</i>	Good deed.
<i>Aqidah</i>	The core theological principles of Islam.
<i>Azan</i>	Call to prayer.
<i>Bid'ah</i>	Innovation.
<i>Dakwah</i>	Invitation to Islam.
<i>Dalil Qath'i</i>	Definitive evidence.
<i>Dalil Zanni</i>	Presumptive evidence.
<i>Dhulmu</i>	Injustice or oppression.
<i>Fasid</i>	Corrupt or spoiled.
<i>Fasiq</i>	Sinful or rebellious against Allah's commandment.
<i>Fiqh</i>	Jurisprudence.
<i>Fiqh Al-Mu'asir</i>	Realistic jurisprudence.
<i>Furu'</i>	Branch issues of Islamic principles.
<i>Fusuq</i>	Disobedience against Allah's commandment.
<i>Hukum</i>	Law or ruling.
<i>I'tiqad</i>	Fundamental doctrine held by Muslims.
<i>Iblis</i>	Devil or Satan.
<i>Ijtihad</i>	Independent reasoning.
<i>Ikrar</i>	Verbal affirmation.
<i>Imam</i>	Leader in congregational prayer.
<i>Iman</i>	Faith.
<i>Jahiliyyah</i>	Period of ignorance or pre-Islamic era.
<i>Jihad</i>	Deep significance within Islamic theology and practice.
<i>Jizyah</i>	Tax paid by non-Muslim to their Muslim rulers.
<i>Kafir</i>	Non-believer.
<i>Kufr</i>	Denial.
<i>Lughawi</i>	Language or linguistics.
<i>Ma'rifah Bi Al Qalb</i>	Knowledge in the heart.
<i>Mu'min</i>	Believer.
<i>Mubtadi'ah</i>	Someone who introduces religious innovations.
<i>Mujtahidun</i>	Islamic scholars.
<i>Murunah</i>	Exhibits flexibility.
<i>Mustad'affin</i>	Powerless group.
<i>Mustakbirin</i>	Oppressor.
<i>Muwahhid</i>	Believers in Allah's oneness.
<i>Qawl Jadeed</i>	New opinions.
<i>Qawl Qadim</i>	Ancient opinions.

<i>Red'dah</i>	Heresy.
<i>Shirk</i>	Associating others with Allah.
<i>Syahadah</i>	Declaration of faith in Islam.
<i>Syari'ah</i>	Islamic law.
<i>Ta'adda</i>	To exceed, surpass, or transgress.
<i>Tabarruq</i>	Seeking blessing.
<i>Tabi'in</i>	The followers.
<i>Tabi' Al-Tabi'in</i>	The Followers of the Followers.
<i>Taghliz</i>	Extreme harshness.
<i>Tahkim</i>	Arbitration.
<i>Tahlil</i>	Form of <i>dhikr</i> (remembrance of Allah).
<i>Takfir</i>	Declaring someone as non-believer.
<i>Tasdiq</i>	Heartfelt justification.
<i>Tashdid</i>	Severe.
<i>Tauhid</i>	Oneness of God.
<i>Taqlid</i>	Blind adherence.
<i>Umum al-Muslimin</i>	Groups of Islamic theology except <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i>

## TRANSLITERATIONS

Arabic	Latin	Word	Transliteration
ء	'	سأل	sa'ala
ب	b	بدل	badala
ت	t	تمر	tamr
ث	th	ثورة	thawrah
ج	j	جمال	jamal
ح	h	حديث	hadith
خ	kh	خالد	khalid
د	d	ديوان	diwan
ذ	dh	مذهب	madhhab
ر	r	رحمن	rahman
ز	z	ززم	zamzam
س	s	سراب	sarab
ش	sh	شمس	shams
ص	s	صبر	sabr
ض	d	ضمير	damir
ط	t	طاهر	tahir
ظ	z	ظهر	zuhr
ع	‘	عبد	‘abd
غ	gh	غيب	ghayb
ف	f	فقه	fiqh

ق	q	قاضي	qadi
ك	k	كأس	ka's
ل	l	لبن	laban
م	m	مزمارة	mizmar
ن	n	نوم	nawm
هـ	h	هبطة	habata
و	w	وصل	wasala
ي	y	يسار	Yasar

#### Short Vowel

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
اَ	a	فَعَلَ	Fa'ala
اِ	i	حَسِبَ	hasiba
اُ	u	كُتِبَ	kutiba

#### Long Vowel

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
اَ ، اِ ، اِوْ	a	كاتب ، قاضي	katib, qada
اِي	i	كريم	karim
اِوْ	u	حروف	huruf

#### Diftong

Arabic	Latin	Example	Transliteration
اَوْ	aw	قول	qawl

ي	ay	سيف	sayf
ي	iyy/i	رجعي	raj <sup>ˈ</sup> iyy / raj <sup>ˈ</sup> i
و	uww/u	عدو	<sup>ˈ</sup> aduww / <sup>ˈ</sup> adu

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
I.S.	Islamic State
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
NU	<i>Nahdlatul Ulama</i>
P.B.U.H.	Peace be upon Him
PAS	<i>Parti Islam Semalaysia</i>
PDRM	The Royal Malaysia Police
SOSMA	Security Offenses (Special Measures) Act 2012
TBC	<i>Takhayul, Bid'ah, and Churafat</i>
UMNO	United Malays National Organisation
USIM	Islamic Science University of Malaysia

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