

# CHAPTER

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## CHAPTER 1

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ، وَالصَّلَاةَ عَلَى نَبِيِّهِ الْأَكْرَمِ الَّذِي نَطَقَ بِالْقُرْآنِ، الَّذِي يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَامٌ، وَالسَّلَامَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ مَصَابِيحِ الظَّلَامِ.

Praise be to Allah, Who teaches man which he knows. And benediction be upon the Holy Prophet ﷺ, who guides man towards that which is (sill) firm. And peace be upon his family and his Companions who are the beacon of light in the darkness.

Islam brings justice to this world as manifested with numerous evidences in the Al Quran and justifying the truth of its Messenger through the local reasoning that has been truly proven in opening up the human hearts in accepting the purity of Islam. The rise of IS (Islamic State) these days to the global world is not only a threat to the world but also in Malaysia. The threat is not only to Muslims but also to Non-Muslims. The beauty of the religion is no longer being praised but instead only to be looked as religion of war, brutality, killings of civilians, holding hostages and suicidal bombings.

The latest case was on 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, the nation was shocked when 19 people between the ages of 18 to 52 were arrested by Special Task Force, Bukit Aman Anti-Terrorist Unit - Unit E8. -All the suspects were held under POTA (Preventions of

Terrorist Act). They planned to attack police stations and army camps in Kuala Lumpur. All of them were planning to uphold Islam in the name of IS or Jihad.<sup>1</sup>

In December 2014, two government servants and 10 couples were arrested before their flight to Syria to join IS. Meanwhile in February 2015, a young girl from Kedah aged 14 was held at KLIA in her attempt to join IS via Turkey then to Syria.<sup>2</sup> Till this date my thesis is being written, two mothers whom I met at Kampung Sungai Sikamat, Kajang after *Maghrib Kulliyah* had lost their sons and daughters who were studying in Yemen. Their children went to Syria to join IS. They have been taught that the shortest way to be in paradise is only in combative Jihad. Believing this they decided to join IS without hesitation.

What really drive these young Malaysians to be involved and influenced by this radical group? Certainly there are many factors which have made them confused in understanding the truth about Jihad as defined by the Quran and Hadiths. These students have been exposed by book written by Hassan Al Banna in *Risalat of Jihad*.

Al Banna quoted the verse in Quran:<sup>3</sup>

﴿ وَقَتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنْ انتهَوْا فلا

عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿

<sup>1</sup>. Ahmad Sarbini. 2015. *19 Orang ditangkap sertai IS*. Berita Harian.6 April p:3.

<sup>2</sup>. Zulfitri Hamzah. 2014. *Penjawat Awam Sertai IS ditangkap*. Berita Harian.3 December p:4.

<sup>3</sup>. Al-Banna Hassan. 1985. *Risalah Jihad*. Penerbitan Yayasan Aman. Indonesia. P:10.

And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression<sup>4</sup>.

He also quoted Quran verse from Surah Al Haj.<sup>5</sup>

﴿وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ ۗ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ ۗ مِلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ۗ هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَفِي هَذَا لِيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِاللَّهِ هُوَ مَوْلَانَكُمْ ۗ فَنِعْمَ الْمَوْلَىٰ وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ﴾

*And strive in His cause as ye ought to strive, (with sincerity and under discipline). He has chosen you, and has imposed no difficulties on you in religion; it is the cult of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you Muslims, both before and in this (Revelation); that the Messenger may be a witness for you, and ye be witnesses for mankind! So establish regular Prayer, give regular Charity, and hold fast to Allah! He is your Protector - the Best to protect and the Best to help!*<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Al-Qurán. Al-Baqarah 2:193. (All Quranic Traslations in this writing are base on Abdullah Ali.1934. *The Guidance of Mankind*. Lahore: Pakistan)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. P: 11.

<sup>6</sup> Al-Quran. Al Haj 22:78.

Hassan Al Banna wrote *Risalat Al Jihad* and campaigned for Jihad as a combative movement during his time in 1940s during the reigning of military and the tyrant President of Egypt; King Farouk. The President was under strong influence of the British Empire which strongly opposed Islam. People had forgotten their duties towards Allah and it was the time of Jihad in War.

The types of Jihad that remain relevant today are dependent upon the different needs and situations of Muslims in a particular area and therefore can change from places to places. Armed Jihad is an Islamic ruling that still remains relevant. In fact armed Jihad is synonymous to the concept of nations protecting their sovereignty.

﴿انْفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ

كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

*Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye (but) knew<sup>7</sup>.*

<sup>7</sup>. Al-Quran. At Taubah 9:41.

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ

تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٨﴾

*O ye who believe! Do your duty to Allah, seek the means of approach unto Him, and strive with might and main in his cause: that ye may prosper<sup>8</sup>.*

﴿ وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِئَةٌ وَفِئَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلُّهُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انْتَهَوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ

بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ﴿٩﴾

*And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere, but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do<sup>9</sup>.*

Thus from all those stated in Quran above, there are many Quranic verses that defined Jihad and being translated in various terms but Jihad remained the strong meaning of strive and struggle; and also fight mentally, physically in the cause of Allah.

<sup>8</sup>. Al Quran. Al-Maidah 6:35.

<sup>9</sup>. Al-Quran. Al-Anfal 8: 39.

## 1.1 Definition

Literally the word Jihad as mentioned in an Arabic word derived from the root verb *Jahada*. Linguistically it means to struggle, to strive and it takes various forms and is driven by a variety of motivations either spiritually, physically or mentally as a group or an individual struggle.

In *John Esposito's Dictionary of Islam*, the meaning of Jihad is stated as struggles against one's evil indignations and exertion to convert the unbelievers or a struggle for the moral betterment of the Islamic community.

*Meriam Websters* defines Jihad as a holy war waged on behalf of Islam as a religious duty also a personal struggle in devotion to Islam especially involving spiritual discipline.

*Encyclopedia Britannica* defines Jihad as a religious duty imposed on Muslims to spread Islam by waging war. But Islam distinguishes Jihad as a duty to be carried out four ways, which can be fulfilled through the heart, tongue, hand and by means of sword.

Oxford Dictionary defines Jihad as a spiritual struggle within ourselves against sin.

In Quran, the trilateral root of word *JAHADA* occurs 41 times. Four times as the noun *JIHAD*. 27 times as the verb form *JAHADA*. Five times as the verbal noun *JAHD*

and four times as active participle *MUJAHIDIN*. 91 percent translations offered by the verb are translated into 'STRIVE'. (Cooper, John (2013). *Jihad Towards Definition*)<sup>10</sup>

Imam Nawawi in *Bustanul al 'Aarifin* said that there are several types of Jihad but the most domain is *Jihad bi Nafs* (Jihad fighting the ego inside one self)<sup>11</sup>

Ibn Qudamah in *Al Mughni* defined Jihad as a group of people in certain country hold their arms in the cause of Allah protecting the sovereignty with all the strength from the enemies as *Jihad Fard Kifayah*.<sup>12</sup>

Syed Sabiq in *Fiqhu Sunnah* said Allah sent His Messenger to all mankind and ordered him to call to guidance and the religion of truth with patience, tolerance and forbearance. The Prophet did not engage in repulsing the aggressive attacks against Muslims but sought to avoid conflicts.<sup>13</sup>

The lack of knowledge in understanding true meaning of Jihad as mentioned above leads to misconceptions of Jihad. Jihad sponsored by IS (Islamic State) is not true. Islam permits Muslims to carry arms not only to defend Muslims but also Non-Muslims. Truly the most significant factors in influencing Malaysians to join IS is the lack of knowledge of Jihad as in the Quranic perspective.

<sup>10</sup>. Cooper, John. 2013. *Jihad Towards Definition*. p:5.

<sup>11</sup>. An Nawawi. 1905. *Bustanul 'Arifin*. Beirut:Darul Kitab. p:53.

<sup>12</sup>. Ibn Qudamah. 1982. *Al Mughni*. Darul Ulumul Kitab. p:9.

<sup>13</sup>. Sabiq, Syed. 1980. *Fiqhu Sunnah*. Beirut Darul Fikir. p:30.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The involvement of many Malaysians in IS is now a new threat to the nation. Mostly those involved in IS were between the ages of 14 to 58 years old. Many of them are educated and some are government officers. The rest are university students who are studying abroad especially in the Middle East.

The problems of not understanding Jihad which is clearly defined by the Quran and the Hadiths among the youths, both men and women in Malaysia have led them to die in the name of Jihad for IS. The objectives of IS are to uphold the caliphate of Islam and to restore the country with Islamic Laws. Thus, unexpectedly more and more Malaysians joined IS.

Therefore the research is to find the utmost dominant factors that attracted Malaysians especially communities of Kampung Sikamat, Kajang and Kampung Hulu Pangsun to go to Syria and register to die for IS. The psychological strategies such as propagandas, articles and through other effective media such as Whatsapp, Youtubes, journals and sermons have so much influenced them to join the group. There must be very strong reasons for Malaysian students to leave their studies and joined IS and also Malaysian's men and women who decided to leave their professions and families to join IS.

## 1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1 To identify the factors that lead to misconceptions of Jihad that influence the youths, men and women to join IS especially those staying at Kampung Hulu Pangsun and Kampung Sikamat in Kajang, Selangor.

1.3.2 To identify the strategies, planning, techniques and approaches needed to curb Malaysians individual from joining IS.

#### 1.4 BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

As it is globally known, the rise of IS cannot be denied. It is truly seen that IS has now become a new big threat to the nation. The radical group is deceiving people especially young generations the true meaning of Jihad. The group claimed that in the name of Jihad which was one showed by Prophet Muhammad, Jihad by means of picking up sword is the only way to enter *Jannah* without difficulties and also quickly. They take the verses from the Quran:

﴿ فَاقْتُلْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَمْ تَكُلْ إِلَّا نَفْسَكَ وَحَرَضَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَكُفَّ بَأْسَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَاللَّهُ أَشَدُّ بَأْسًا وَأَشَدُّ فَتْنًا لَلْإِنْسَانِ ﴾

*Then fight in Allah's cause - Thou art held responsible only for thyself - and rouse the believers. It may be that Allah will restrain the fury of the Unbelievers; for Allah is the strongest in might and in punishment<sup>14</sup>.*

﴿ فَرِحَ الْمُخَلَّفُونَ بِمَقْعَدِهِمْ خَلْفَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَكَرِهُوا أَنْ يُجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَالُوا لَا تَنْفِرُوا فِي الْحَرِّ قُلْ نَارُ جَهَنَّمَ أَشَدُّ حَرًّا لَوْ كَانُوا يَفْقَهُونَ ﴾

<sup>14</sup>. Al-Quran. An-Nisaa' 4: 84.

*Those who were left behind (in the Tabuk expedition) rejoiced in their inaction behind the back of the Messenger of Allah: they hated to strive and fight, with their goods and their persons, in the cause of Allah: they said, "Go not forth in the heat." Say, "The fire of Hell is fiercer in heat." If only they could understand.*<sup>15</sup>

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015, the newspaper Utusan Malaysia reported that 12 people including students and an engineer were held by Anti-Terrorist Special Unit in Hulu Langat. These 12 people were planning for bombings in Kuala Lumpur and many of them were between the ages from 18 to 40 years old and they were suspected to be involved with the IS.<sup>16</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> February 2015, the Berita Harian newspaper reported a 14 year old girl from Kedah was detained by police at KLLA on her way joining IS for Jihad in Syria. She was given RM 2000 and a one way ticket to Cairo and bounded for Syria to join IS. Intelligence sources said that the girl was lured through chatting in the Facebook with some students in Azhar University.<sup>17</sup>

March 2015, 19 Malaysians were arrested before planning to attack several strategic places in Malaysia such as army camps, police stations and targeted places in Putrajaya. The well planned attack was masterminded by IS based in Southeast Asia which is in the Phillipines.

<sup>15</sup>. Al-Quran. At-Taubah 9: 81.

<sup>16</sup>. Zulfitri Hamzah. 2015. *12 Orang Suspek ditangkap*. Utusan Malaysia. April. p:1.

<sup>17</sup>. n.a .2015. *14 Year Old Girl Involved in IS*. New Straits Times.Feb. p:6.

According to Unit E8, Special Unit Counter Terrorist, Bukit Aman revealed that at present, not less than 90 Malaysians are in Syria fighting for IS. Malaysia will be a hub for IS in the next few years if Malaysia is not prepared to fight IS. In fact, a new law giving more enforcement power to police has been introduced, which is known as POTA (Prevention of Terrorist Act).

It is believed that upon arriving at the training camp in Syria, new recruits will be indoctrinated by propagandas to die in martyrdom. Once reported to the camp, they will never leave but to die. Women joining IS are not stationed in front of the battle line but only to work as sex slaves and sometimes being forced to marry an army individual of Jihad by the name of pleasure and to please them.

They have been given certain missions in Syria and many other countries; to uphold the caliphate of Islam and to uphold divine laws in Qutan. The doctrine in IS may cause disturbances, economic and political instability in the nation. But the worse that is feared is bloodshed in Malaysia. Their perception is that anyone who is against them is considered as *kuffar*. IS declared Jihad on those people who are against what they believe in.<sup>18</sup>

Families whose sons and daughters are studying especially in the Middle East loose hope of their children who had been influenced by IS. Their sons and daughters whom were expected to return home as ustaz or ustazah will find their dreams shattered. The reasons of their involvement in IS should be determined so as to set up proper guidance to them.

<sup>18</sup>. Khan, Ayob Pichay. 2015. *IS is Now aThreat in Malaysia*. New Straits Times.20 March. p:5.

The role of Imams, the media, teachers and communities must be very clear to deliver the true meanings of Jihad. If these problems about Jihad in IS are not taken seriously and swiftly, slowly it will become a critical matter. When this happens, it might be too late to recover. As a result we will not be surprised to hear and see there will be bombings and other disturbances in Malaysia. The roots of those involvement in IS should be identified then.

## 1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

- 1.5.1 What is Jihad as defined in Quran and Hadiths. The meaning which is stated in Quran and Hadiths is only being translated by qualified imams and only extracted in Hadith Sahih Muslim and Bukhari. The meanings of Jihad should not be interpreted based on groups selfishness but merely by what had been done by the Prophet in his days. Followed by exemplary rulings by caliphate of Islam; Abu Bakar, Umar, Ustman and Ali.
- 1.5.2. What are the factors that contribute to the misconceptions of Jihad? Lack of knowledge in understanding of Jihad. The phrase of Jihad is new to the communities and only heard and read in Quran but most people never know the true meanings of it. The communities only learn very basic knowledge in other *Fard Ain* such as Solah, Zakat, Haj and Fasting during Ramadhan. The knowledge of Jihad is never being taught in mosques. Even in Friday sermons, the topic of Jihad is not widely read by imams.
- 1.5.3. Influenced by the radical groups such as Al Qaeda, Taliban, Laskar Jihad, Jemaat Al Islam, Front Moro Liberation Army and the most dominant now is IS. The strength of these groups are often proven by their victories. For example, IS showed to the world under Abu Bakar Al Baghdadi who

recruited thousands of people around the world to fight for them in the name of Jihad in Syria. They are winning in Syria and planning for bigger invasion in other Islamic countries including Malaysia. The victory of Mujahideen in Afghanistan led by Ahmad Shah Masoud against Russia once being praised by western countries has become an icon to Jihad group. Other leaders such as Abu Bakar Bashir in Jemaah Islamiyah (Indonesia) declared war against US and masterminded bombing in Bali. Osama bin Laden in Al Qaeda is a Jihadist icon has set minds of many Muslims to join Jihad.

1.5.4. The role of social medias; Facebook, Twitter, Journals, Whatsapp, videos and Instagram play so much role in influencing people to join Jihad.

1.5.5. Education background of certain students involved in joining IS is another factor that leads to misconceptions of Jihad. Mostly are students from universities in the Middle East such as Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq are easily involved in IS. They have witnessed and experienced what is known as 'Arab Spring' in those countries. They have witnessed Presidents being toppled and new President being elected.

## 1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

Islam does not direct Muslims to wage a perpetual war against those who do not share Islamic faith. Armed Jihad is only called for in specific circumstances such as protecting sovereignty. Armed Jihad are for those who are oppressed and prosecuted and also confronting rebels and those who create havoc, chaos and destructions.

The significance of this study is to gain back the good impressions of Islam to Muslims and Non-Muslims. By revealing the true definition of Jihad according to the Quranic perspective; it is hope by doing so, there will be no more destructions which are caused by bombings in the name of Jihad. Knowing the factors that influence people to take up arms in the name of Jihad may open the eyes to the Da'e in giving out their sermons or teachings in the mosques or suraus in Malaysia. Not only that they will give priorities to *Solah, Fasting during Ramadhan, Performing Haj, Zakat* per se but also should emphasize the knowledge of Jihad.. The Maghrib classes might also soon turn to a new era in studying the knowledge of Jihad.

It is also very important for communities particularly youths to begin a new era in understanding Jihad. They should realize that there are other means of Jihad which also need their utmost sacrifices. Youths especially should come to their senses that Jihad can be done through Jihad in Economics, Jihad in Education, Jihad within their families and Jihad building their nation. Knowing these factors, JAKIM (Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia ) can now formulate the syllabus in their programs in radio and television to make a 'wake-up call' to the nation about knowledge in Jihad. At present, Malaysia is facing very serious problem in tackling Jihad particularly in those joining IS. Furthermore it is time for the Ministry of Prime Minister Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defence to play a more global role in tackling Jihad.

Once the study reveals factors to misconceptions of Jihad, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Prime Minister Department can now collaborate with one another to formulate a new structure in the syllabus of Islamic Education to introduce the subject of Jihad in schools. Foreign Ministry should have in each of their foreign embassies throughout the world Islamic advisors especially those in Middle East countries. This is to help students to understand the true meaning of Jihad as defined by Quran. Besides,

Foreign Ministry may have to screen certain students before they go for further studies overseas.

The government may send qualified councilors to students who are already deeply involved into the ideas of IS and persuade them to come back to Malaysia and serve the nation. Other significance of this study is to the government of Malaysia. The authorities should always be watchful to some foreign embassies in Malaysia such as Yemen, Iran and Pakistan. It is upmost important that Immigration Department be always on alert to tourist coming to Malaysia fearing that they would spread unwanted and dangerous teachings to Malaysians.

Last but not least, the significance of this study is to convince the authorities that the contents of Friday sermons need to be changed too. JAKIM must play an important role towards preparations of the text in Friday sermons by focusing topics of Jihad. The contents of the text should focus on the concern and importance of Jihad in Malaysia.

As Jihad ordained by the Quran, Jihad by Prophet and many others; thus it is important to identify strategies on how the proper knowledge of Jihad can be pass to all people. It is crucial that careful planning should be work out and proper techniques should be developed to deliver the correct knowledge and understanding of Jihad in Malaysia. This will ensure the nation will be peaceful with no disturbances from outside propagandas and can gain prosperity in Islam.

## 1.7. LIMITATION OF STUDY

1.7.1 Sample size of the study. Questionnaires and interviews were conducted to 120 respondents in Kampung Sungai Sikamat, Kajang and Kampung Hulu Pangsun of Hulu Langat, Selangor. The respondents were mainly from ages 15 to 55. Included in the respondents were both males and females. The respondents also included blue collar workers, professionals, housewives and jobless people. Some of the respondents in both communities do not understand English as in the questionnaires and thus the questionnaires need to be translated to Bahasa Malaysia.

1.7.2. Lack of prior research study because the topic IS is very new to the world and to Malaysia particularly. The information, data collected were not reliable and only based on newspaper reports, internets and interviews with victim's parents. The latest prior studies about factors joining Jihad were Jihad by Boko Haram in Nigeria, Jihad in Afghanistan and Jihad by Laskar Jihad in Indonesia.

## 1.8 CONCLUSION.

1.8.1 The importance of the research to Malaysians. This research is very important to be read by Malaysians because it reveals the truth as to the reasons of Malaysians joining Jihad. It shows that the knowledge of Jihad among Malaysians is still at a very poor level. The consequences of joining IS will cause disturbances in Malaysia. It is also known that the country is soon becoming the hub for extremism in Southeast Asian countries.

- 1.8.2 Recommended new areas of research. This study would like to prove that it is to make a statement that religious practice plays no role in violent radicalization. When in reality we have seen time and time again that Jihad terrorist are devout, observant Muslims by invoking the Quran and *Sunnah* and portraying themselves as true Muslims. Youths, wealth, knowledge in Jihad and education are identified as the risk factors associated with IS. Sympathies for the terrorist acts are also a key marker of vulnerability to violent radicalization. As part of the study, researcher develops new ways of measuring radicalization based upon asking respondents about their sympathies for or condemnation of 10 different actions that fell under the leading of terrorism (for example use of suicide bombs to fight injustice).
- 1.8.3 Highlighting key points to research. In this study, researcher highlights situational factors such as the advance modern age of technologies that strongly influenced people to join IS. New media socials such as Youtube, Instagram, Facebook and Whatsapp have become a very fast and most effective ways to communicate and to spread ideas and doctrines. Besides that motivational factors such as education and family background are also being considered.