

LibForAll Develops Unique Counter-Extremism TV/Video Series

JAKARTA, Indonesia –For decades, Islamist radicals have been propagating their virulent ideology of hatred and violence throughout the Muslim world – fueled by a potent combination of petrodollars and missionary zeal. This flow of radical ideas includes a massive effort to translate and disseminate extremist texts, and to produce extremist programming for television, internet and DVD/VCD distribution, which programming has become a significant part of the public discourse in many Islamic countries, and among Muslim communities in the West.

LibForAll’s pioneering television series – *Ocean of Revelation* – represents a decisive step in addressing this critical situation. Painstakingly designed and produced to the highest theological and commercial television standards, this ground-breaking TV series/video curriculum promises to discredit the ideology of religious hatred that underlies and animates terrorism.



Film crew arranging set for the episode on Jihad

Internationally-renowned Indonesian ulama closely associated with LibForAll Foundation are supervising the entire project. In addition to having theological authority and a following in the tens of millions, Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, Kyai Haji Mustofa Bisri and Dr. A. Syafi’i Ma’arif advocate a strongly pluralistic and tolerant understanding of Islam, at peace with itself and the modern world.

The first six episodes of the television series, filmed in Indonesia and Egypt, are scheduled for launch in the second quarter of 2009. Ultimately, the project will include an additional twenty episodes, extending the breadth of this effort to further locations in the Middle East, North Africa, Sahel/Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Turkey, and Central-, South- and Southeast Asia.

In the words of LibForAll associate Kyai Haji Abdul A’la, who heads an Islamic boarding school with 8,000 students:

“We may pray five times a day and loudly proclaim our faith, but if we hate non-Muslims and do not respect or value them as friends, then our faith is worthless. Honesty in work; sincere friendship towards all: these are essential values that cannot be



Project supervisor K.H. Mustofa Bisri, recording episode on “People of Faith” in a Chinese temple

compromised or substituted. Lacking sincerity, if we proclaim that we are Muslims “struggling” for Islam, while our hearts remain full of pride, ego and self-interest, then our religious practice is merely superficial, and we’re manipulating Islam for selfish purposes. In that case, our religiosity is no different from that of people who have no religion at all. Indeed, in my opinion, it is more base and ignoble than the primitive instincts of beasts.”

Episode 1, “Islam and Faith”



Maryam Ishaq al-Khalifa Sharief (above) ~ great-granddaughter of the 19th century Sudanese nationalist leader known as al-Mahdi ~ provided LibForAll’s television series with a deeply illuminating view of Islam as *rahmatan lil ‘alamin* (a blessing for all creation), rooted in a pluralistic, tolerant and profoundly spiritual worldview.

“I need to issue a reminder, that Muslims must adopt an attitude of forgiveness. Lack of forgiveness is not a characteristic of those who truly surrender to God. Forgive, and constantly strive to do good. The Qur’an states that whatever ill befalls you is the work of your own hands. But God has forgiven far more than the sins which you have committed.”

~ Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid
Former President of Indonesia &
Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama (1984-1999)
Episode 6, “Jihad”

“Islam is often referred to as *rahmatan lil ‘alamin*, or “a blessing for all creation.” Exclusivism is a betrayal of that principle, and if a religious community gives rise to exclusivism, it would be better if they simply abandoned this world – Go ahead! Good riddance! Head off to some other planet! Because exclusivism constitutes a betrayal of religious principles, and of Islam in particular, and cannot be condoned.”

~ Dr. Syafi’i Ma’arif, former Chairman of the world’s second largest Muslim organization, the Muhammadiyah, with 30 million members
Episode 3, “Faith Communities”

“A pervasive misunderstanding of jihad is what’s caused such behavior, right? In fact, it arises from a *single* cause: ignorance. So we must conclude that ignorance and stupidity are the primary cause of conflict in contemporary Muslim societies. If we truly wish to prevent conflict, let’s study our religion more deeply, so we can understand what to do in the event of differences and similarities. The way I see things, it’s far better if we’re different but share a common (enlightened) understanding, than if we’re the same and both mired in ignorance.”

~ Kyai Haji M. Tolchah Hasan
Senior Advisor to the Nahdlatul Ulama
Episode 6, “Jihad”



Film crew on location in West Java

LibForAll Expands Counter-Extremism Programs to the Middle East

CAIRO, Egypt – In May of 2008, LibForAll Foundation [expanded its operations to Egypt](#), home to al-Azhar ~ the world’s oldest university ~ and one of the key centers of Sunni Islam. A LibForAll delegation traveled under the auspices of the Egyptian and Indonesian foreign ministries, for the purpose of interviewing key religious leaders for LibForAll’s *Lautan Wahyu (Ocean of Revelation)* television series, and to expand LibForAll’s network in the Arab heartland.



The **Grand Shaykh of al-Azhar University** and Grand Imam of al-Azhar Mosque ~ Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi (above right, with LibForAll CEO Holland Taylor) ~ **blessed LibForAll’s activities**, and its mission to promote a pluralistic and tolerant understanding of Islam, at peace with itself and the modern world.



As [Al-Ahram](#) ~ one of the oldest (est. 1875) and most widely-read newspapers in the Arab world ~ reported on Mr. Taylor’s interview

with the Grand Shaykh of al-Azhar: “LibForAll Foundation is an NGO that cares deeply about Islam and Muslims. The foundation strives to express, clarify and widely disseminate a true understanding of Islam not only to non-Muslims, but also to Muslims in general. LibForAll aims to present the moderate and tolerant face of Islam, and explain the importance of [Muslims] returning to the essence of Islamic teachings which, until now, have been poorly

understood by many groups [both in Islam and the West].”

This puts LibForAll Foundation in the unique position of having been praised by top Western governments and media, AND by world-renowned theologians and mass media in the Islamic world. LibForAll is building on this foundation of cross-cultural understanding and respect to not only expand its programs in Muslim-majority countries, but also to exert a deep and lasting impact on discourse in the West, concerning Islam and Muslim-related affairs.

“The proper role of government, concerning (extremists’ use of force and calling it) ‘proselytization’ is to have the ulama and intellectuals advise and correct those who are wrong. If the extremists fail to immediately accept this advice, the government must enforce the law by arresting and sentencing them to prison, in accordance with their wrongdoing.”

~ Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Shaykh of Al-Azhar, in Episode 5 of LibForAll’s TV series



The visit to Egypt also provided a template for expansion of LibForAll’s Global “Blessing for All Creation” Network and video series to other regions of the Muslim world, including South Asia (Afghanistan/Pakistan/India/Bangladesh), the broader Middle East, Turkey and Europe.

Constructive Engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: Mobilizing Religious Leaders to Build a Civil Society Solution

JERUSALEM – “Palestinians and Israelis need the world’s support to create a new reality, in which the highest values of religion and humanity are restored to their proper dignity. We must also help Muslim populations – not only in Palestine, but throughout the Arab world – to rise to embrace a profoundly spiritual and tolerant understanding of Islam, and a humanistic attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that acknowledges the legacy of suffering on all sides. Such an attitude is a necessary precondition for recognizing Israel’s unique history and right to exist, while truly advancing the interests of Palestinians as well.”

~ LibForAll co-founder K. H. Abdurrahman Wahid and LibForAll associate K. H. Abdul A’la, in a May 10, 2008 op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#)

This article followed a LibForAll Peace Delegation to the Holy Land, consisting of leaders from the world’s two largest Muslim organizations (with a combined total of 70 million followers).



LibForAll’s Indonesian Peace Delegation with Israeli President Shimon Peres

Planned and executed in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the purpose of this delegation was to establish relationships with moderates on both sides; explore how *ulama* (Islamic clerics) can bring their moral and theological authority to bear in facilitating the peace process; and to encourage cooperation between civil society leaders in Indonesia and the Middle East, in resolving the interminable Israeli/Palestinian conflict.



With Palestinian moderates, including Muhammad Dajani (scarf), in the West Bank city of Ramallah

THE NEW REPUBLIC
A Journal of Politics and the Arts



“I admit it: I saw these two names [Wahid and A’la] and the headline, ‘[The Obstacles to Israeli-Palestinian Peace](#),’ over their op-ed essay and wondered what it was doing in the staunchly pro-Zionist *Wall Street Journal*.

“Then I realized that I had seen Wahid’s name before, and that he was a Muslim heretic about the widely entrenched dogma in the Muslim world around Israel. The piece is clear, strong and complex. He knows that there are forces in the Jewish state that are quite averse to a dignified settlement of the hundred-year conflict, and their position has been reinforced by the hatred they see coming from the Arab world.

“But Wahid and A’la are not speaking to the Jewish world. They are speaking as Muslims to the Muslim world. ‘These prejudices contaminate public discourse throughout the world, and are constantly exploited by Middle Eastern regimes that fuel anti-Israel and anti-Semitic emotions for political purposes, while displaying little or no actual concern for the well-being of the Palestinians themselves.’

“May their wisdom flourish.”

~ Marty Peretz, “Some Common Sense about Peace,”
May 12, 2008 in the *New Republic*

LibForAll's activities have also had the effect of changing the tone of public dialog in Indonesia, concerning engagement with Israel. While the extremist media harshly condemned Indonesian ulama for "dancing with Israeli Zionists," the nation's mainstream press focused instead on LibForAll's core mission, and the contribution which Indonesian civil society can make to peace in the Middle East.

Under the leadership of Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, who has an extensive network of relationships in the Middle East, LibForAll is currently deepening its engagement in the Israeli/Palestinian peace process, by assembling a team of top Muslim clerics to articulate the fundamental components of a just and honorable peace, based on the teachings of Islam.



Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center with Kyai Haji Abdul A'la, member of the Indonesian Peace Delegation, featured in Tempo Magazine (above left)

“According to Taylor, the visit was important because of the world’s 1.3 billion Muslims, 190 million live in Indonesia, while Arabs constitute less than 20% of the world’s Muslim population. Taylor believes that forging ties between powerful civil society actors in Indonesia, Israel and Palestine can help to plant the seeds of peace. He also believes that all religions convey the truth, and none teach their followers to perpetrate evil or tyranny.

“According to A’la, the purpose of his visit to Israel and Palestine was to introduce Indonesian Islam, which is characterized by tolerance and love of peace. According to Taylor, the five delegation members were chosen because they have a wise and mature understanding of Islam. They are regarded as having attained a high degree of Islamic spirituality, which is tolerant and respectful of differences.”

~ “Tip-Toeing into the Holy Land: Five Indonesian Ulama Visit Israel and Palestine, Promoting Tolerance and World Peace,” Tempo Magazine



Members of Peace Delegation at the Western Wall and Dome of the Rock, after Friday prayer

“After the religious leaders who participated returned to Indonesia, they faced intense condemnation from Muslim extremists, who accused them of having betrayed their Palestinian brethren and embarrassed Indonesia’s Muslim community. Yet there is nothing shameful about working to realize the highest values of religion – which God intended to serve as a blessing, and not a curse, to all of humanity. Although the obstacles to peace in the Holy Land may appear insurmountable, it is the responsibility of religious leaders on all sides to attempt the impossible, and to accept whatever threats, slander and stigma may follow.” ~ Wahid & A’la, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*

Simon Wiesenthal Center Awards LibForAll Co-founder Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid Its Medal of Valor

LOS ANGELES, California – “As much of the world clamors for a moderate Muslim voice to speak out against extremism and violence in the Middle East and globally, Indonesia’s first democratically elected President, His Excellency Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, last night outlined his views on promoting peace by exporting pluralistic and tolerant forms of Islam to the Middle East.

“Rather than view Israel and Jews through a politicized lens of religious hatred and violence, we must help Muslim populations – not only in Palestine, but throughout the Arab world – rise to embrace a profoundly spiritual and tolerant understanding of Islam, and a humanistic attitude towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” said President Wahid.



Actor Will Smith was one of the hosts for the Tribute dinner, held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverley Hills, California. The audience of over 900, including many of Hollywood’s elite, gave a prolonged standing ovation to President Wahid, with much of the audience in tears.



President Wahid receiving the award, with Rabbis Abraham Cooper & Marvin Hier of the Wiesenthal Center

“President Wahid’s comments came during a rare visit to the United States to accept The Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Medal of Valor for his leadership of the LibForAll Foundation and his efforts to combat Holocaust denial in the Muslim world.” ~ Reuters/Los Angeles Times



President Wahid and his wife, Ibu Sinta Nuriyah Wahid, with tribute guests including Lord Carey of Clifton (the former Archbishop of Canterbury) and Amy Pascal, Co-Chairman of Sony Pictures Entertainment Group. The dinner chairmen included Jeffrey Katzenberg, CEO and director of Dreamworks Animation; Ron Meyer, President and CEO of Universal Studios; and Sir Howard Stringer, Chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation

A video clip from this presentation ceremony is available on LibForAll’s YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/LibForAllFoundation>.

LibForAll Advice “Much Sought After” by U.S. Government

WASHINGTON, DC – “U.S. officials—from the Bush administration to Congress to the Pentagon—have been struggling to build a strategy to counter radical Islamists. So it’s no wonder that the former president of Indonesia, **Abdurrahman Wahid**, was much sought after by top lawmakers, senior White House officials, and other policy makers when he visited Washington in May. Wahid, who led the world’s largest Muslim nation from 1999 to 2001, has been promoting a message of tolerance and democracy. He is a strong supporter of Israel, and last [month], the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles awarded a medal of valor to Wahid for his highly public stance in condemning Iranian President **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** as a liar for denying the Holocaust. Wahid was accompanied in Washington by **C. Holland Taylor**, founder of the LibForAll Foundation, which works globally to promote the message of moderate Islam.”

~ Bob Gettlin, *National Journal*



Washington activities included dinners in honor of President Wahid at the Rayburn House Office Building (sponsored by Congressman Robert Wexler and the American Jewish Committee), and at the Indonesian ambassador’s residence; meetings with Congressmen, Senators and various think tanks; a meeting in the West Wing of the White House with Vice President Cheney; and a private briefing with members of the DC press corps (above), which

generated national and international coverage of President Wahid’s visit.

“Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to offer a rare opportunity to meet and discuss with the former President of Indonesia, H.E. Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, what works to curb radical Islam in South East Asia and how and if this strategy is transferrable elsewhere in the world...

“On Wednesday, May 8th at 4:45 p.m., we invite you and key staff and Hill leadership to join us in Room S-207, the Mansfield Room, where we can hear why the Wall Street Journal has called President Wahid “the single most influential religious leader in the Muslim world,” and “easily the most important ally the West has in the struggle with radical Islam...”

“We trust you can use this opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the importance of efforts LibForAll is undertaking to confront radical Islam.”

~ Senators Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-MO)



President Wahid and C. Holland Taylor with Indonesian ambassador to the U.S., Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat, and U.S. senators including Sen. Kit Bond (facing camera)

Engagement with European Governments and the United Nations: Countering Radicalization AND Promoting Human Rights

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – Emphasizing the synergy between LibForAll’s European and Indonesian operations, in the spring of 2008 the **Swedish Foreign Ministry** provided funding for LibForAll’s Smiling Face of Islam project, to enable the translation and publication of key works that will facilitate the spread of pluralistic and tolerant ideas between Europe, Indonesia and the rest of Islamic world.



Leaders in LibForAll’s network played in a key role in the development of Indonesian civil society and that nation’s transition to democracy. This project is introducing their progressive Indonesian Muslim theology into the heart of the Islamic world, by translating key works into Arabic and English.

In the words of Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd, a hero of the Egyptian reform movement who serves as Director of Academics for LibForAll Foundation’s International Institute of Qur’anic Studies: this project will enable LibForAll to “export the smiling face of Islam from Indonesia to the Middle East, where it has been frowning for a long time.”

“It remains to be seen whether the rich tradition of *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia) scholarship will help to inspire a global renaissance of Islamic humanism, or gradually wither and decay – subverted by those whose shallow and monolithic grasp of Islam stems from an exclusive obsession with *fiqh* (Islamic Law), without understanding it.”

~ Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid

NEW YORK and MADRID, Spain – LibForAll Foundation plays an active role at the United Nations, both through its participation in the [Alliance of Civilizations](#) (AoC) Secretariat, and its engagement with the [UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#).

In addition to being a charter member of the AoC Foundations Working Group and participating in the UN’s First Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Madrid in January of 2008, in July LibForAll CEO Holland Taylor addressed a key forum on the role of Civil Society Organizations in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was co-sponsored by the German and Swedish Foreign Ministries.

At the forum, it became clear that LibForAll is at the forefront in implementing key elements of the UN CT Strategy, including the resolution: “*Reaffirming also that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.*”

Rather than passively avoid such an association (as do many Western governments, which fear angering extremists), LibForAll mobilizes top religious and cultural leaders who possess the theological authority, and courage, required to refute extremists’ use of Islam to justify terrorism.



LibForAll’s approach is unique, in that it employs an “inside-out” approach deeply embedded within Muslim societies, in order to effectively promote the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including freedom of expression, belief and association, for both individuals and minorities.

LibForAll Establishes International Institute of Qur'anic Studies

LEIDEN, Netherlands and MAGELANG, Central Java – LibForAll launched its International Institute of Qur'anic Studies (IIQS) in March of 2008, in order to help lay the foundation for a renaissance of Islamic pluralism, tolerance and critical thinking, and to foster the necessary conditions for the development of stable democracies and the protection of universal human rights throughout the Muslim world.



Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid and Dr. Syafi'i Ma'arif – former chairmen of the Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, respectively – the world's two largest Muslim organizations –serve as the Institute's patrons and senior advisors.

Internationally-renowned Egyptian scholar and pioneer in the objective historical analysis of the Qur'an, Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd, serves as Director of Academics, having turned down positions at UC Berkeley and Columbia University in order to continue what he describes as his "life work" with LibForAll Foundation/IIQS.

Indonesia will serve as the Institute's initial center of gravity, with Muslim scholars from other nations traveling to Indonesia to participate in the project on an ongoing basis. The use of new media, and recruitment of a global network of Muslim opinion leaders associated with the IIQS, will enable the Institute to exercise worldwide influence –

recreating the dynamics of the Protestant Reformation's success by bringing together reformers, powerful patrons and new media to rapidly propagate the values of freedom, democracy and human rights throughout the Muslim world.



"I say that Islam, in our time, has fallen into the hands of a band of ignorant fanatics who manipulate it to achieve a single purpose: that is, to deprive Islam of its true spirit. And because Islam is currently in their hands, we all have a religious duty to free it from their vice-like grip and destroy the fanatics' hold on Islam, which is trapped and held in bondage by people like Osama bin Laden and others. They have many followers, such as those who come to other Muslims and say, 'Your Islam is wrong; follow me and become a true Muslim.'

"To such Muslims we reply that there is deep meaning in the Islamic scholarly tradition, 'Seek advice from your heart, even though I may outwardly advise you.' For example, suppose a mufti issues you a fatwa. After hearing the mufti, you should consult your own heart for guidance. Does your heart validate what the mufti said and instruct you to receive the fatwa, or not? And we say, with this approach we must fulfill our duty to shift the center of religious understanding from outside ourselves, to within. We must always consult our own conscience, to determine whether or not what others say is true."

~ Dr. Ali Mabrook, Professor of Islamic Studies at Cairo University, Egypt, and IIQS faculty member, *Ocean of Revelation*, Episode 5, "Proselytization"

The Institute's mission is to develop schools of modern Qur'anic interpretation that combine classical exegetical methods with the best of modern scholarship – thus enabling Muslims to build a bridge between their traditions and the world of freedom, democracy and human rights.

The Institute's first intensive *tafsir* ("exegesis") course was held in July-August 2008 at the Muhammadiyah University of Magelang (UMM) in Central Java – part of a network of 187 Muhammadiyah colleges and universities nationwide. Held over a period of six weeks, this course was facilitated by Dr. Abu Zayd and Dr. Ali Mabrook, and included over 150 hours of intensive training and practice in modern and classical methods of Qur'anic interpretation.



Participants in IIQS exegesis course included female activists and scholars. By empowering women to interpret the Qur'an, the IIQS is helping to promote women's rights throughout the Muslim world

Participants in this first-of-its-kind course included scholars/lecturers from various universities, young leaders from mass organizations – the Nahdlatul Ulama and the Muhammadiyah – and NGO activists, forming a core network of alumni trained in modern methodologies of interpretation, who will propagate these pluralistic and tolerant interpretations to key audiences.

Prominent radicals exerted heavy pressure on the university to cancel the course, with controversy extending nationwide in Muhammadiyah and extremist circles. However, IIQS received an outpouring of support from top Muslim leaders including IIQS patron Dr. Syafi'i Ma'arif, former Chairman of the Muhammadiyah; Dr. Amien Rais, former Chairman of the Muhammadiyah and former speaker of Indonesia's National Assembly; Dr. Haeder Nashir, current Muhammadiyah Vice

Chairman; and Dr. Amin Abdullah, Rector of the prestigious Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University in Yogyakarta. These and other Muhammadiyah leaders encouraged participants to continue their work with IIQS, and enabled UMM/IIQS to complete the course despite vigorous opposition from radical elements. Consequently, several other major Indonesian universities also expressed interest in hosting future IIQS courses.



IIQS Faculty, Dr. Abu-Zayd and Dr. Ali Mabrook, at Parangkusumo beach, where 16th-century Javanese Muslims derived inspiration to defeat Islamist radicals and establish freedom of worship, two centuries before the Bill of Rights separated church and state in America

These results demonstrate that it's possible to initiate systematic reform of Qur'anic studies and Islamic theology in the Muslim world, with the proper strategy and support. However, major obstacles exist, which the IIQS will systematically address in the coming years, with the assistance of LibForAll's network of Muslim leaders and donor support.

"The goal of the International Institute of Qur'anic Studies is to help stimulate a renaissance of Islamic pluralism, tolerance and critical thinking – enabling Muslims to embrace the universal and cosmopolitan principles that characterized Islamic civilization at its height, while adapting peacefully to the modern world."

~ H.E. Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, IIQS co-founder and patron

Educational Programs in the West

LibForAll Foundation is engaged in a long-term educational campaign in North America and Europe, to assist policy-makers, opinion leaders and the general public to understand the spectrum of views within Islam, so as to distinguish between Islam and the extreme agenda of those who seek to manipulate and exploit the religion to achieve their own personal and political objectives.

With the support of a growing network of individual donors and foundations, LibForAll is systematically implementing a **solution-focused, rather than “endless discussion”** approach to the threat of radical Islam, as evidenced by its pioneering programs and success, which has been validated by top media outlets throughout the world.



LibForAll CEO C. Holland Taylor speaking in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at the invitation of Lynn and Foster Friess, Rich and Sue Sugden, and their families (view video at <http://www.youtube.com/LibForAllFoundation>)

Throughout 2008, LibForAll continued to share the strategy and principles behind its counter-extremism success through expert presentations at numerous venues in North America and Europe, including the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, the European Union and other entities.

LibForAll conducts this education program in close cooperation with, and often directly by, the renowned Muslim leaders who are part of its Global Counter-Extremism Network. One factor which makes LibForAll’s **Blessing for All Creation** Counter-

Extremism Network so successful, is that it consists of both top Muslim leaders from throughout the world, and well-placed U.S. citizens – such as LibForAll Chairman and CEO C. Holland Taylor, and VP Dr. Ravi Krishnamurthy – who have a proven track record of facilitating the effective dissemination of these Muslim leaders’ ideas in the West.



Zainab Al Suwajj, Executive Director of the American Islamic Congress; GWU professor Sayyed Hossein Nasr; Abdurrahman Wahid; and C. Holland Taylor at an event designed to lend the moral and spiritual authority of LibForAll’s Global Counter-Extremism Network to the AIC’s Project Nur student movement

“Rather than legally stifle criticism and debate – which will only encourage Muslim fundamentalists in their efforts to impose a spiritually void, harsh and monolithic understanding of Islam upon all the world – Western authorities should instead firmly defend freedom of expression, not only in their own nations, but globally, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

“Defending freedom of expression is by no means synonymous with *personally* countenancing or encouraging disrespect towards others’ religious beliefs, but it does imply greater faith in the judgment of God, than of man.”

~ Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, “God Needs No Defense.” To be published in a forthcoming book on blasphemy and apostasy laws in the Muslim world, by Nina Shea and Paul Marshall of the Hudson Institute’s Center for Religious Freedom.

LibForAll Featured in Expert Publications

The April, 2008 edition of *Foreign Service Journal* featured an article by LibForAll co-founders K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid and C. Holland Taylor entitled [A Tradition of Tolerance in Indonesia Offers Hope](#), in which the authors shared their prescription for “reversing the dynamics of this vicious cycle of radicalization, and instead create a virtuous cycle of counter-extremism throughout the Muslim world.”



Published by the American Foreign Service Association, *Foreign Service Journal* is distributed to every U.S. embassy and consular office in the world, and to over 80% of U.S. diplomatic staff posted abroad.

“With its traditions of religious pluralism and tolerance, Indonesia and its civil society are ideally positioned to serve as mediators, helping to remove the poison of religious hatred that has long afflicted the Middle East. By integrating its rich spiritual traditions with the best of modern practices, Indonesian Islam can serve as a model for Islamic civilization worldwide and help inspire a similar renaissance of Islamic spirituality and tolerance in other parts of our troubled world.”

In December 2005, the Council of the European Union developed a Strategy and Action Plan on Radicalisation and Recruitment for addressing the various processes that lead people to turn to violence and terrorism. As part of implementing this strategy, four studies were undertaken on behalf of the European Commission “to analyse in depth the problem of radicalisation leading to terrorism from various angles that were considered important for the EU’s policy-making in the area. The studies are comparative in nature and based on fieldwork and case studies.”



One of the studies was undertaken by The Change Institute in London, and entitled “[Study on the best practices in cooperation between authorities and civil society with a view to the prevention and response to violent radicalization.](#)” This study, released in July 2008, recognizes LibForAll’s successes in Indonesia and worldwide, and states that the critical success factor is [LibForAll’s approach](#) of building “strategic networks.”


“The work and effectiveness of the Foundation is predicated on an extensive network of key individuals and organisations in a range of sectors and organisations who share the aims and objectives of LibForAll. It is through these networks and resources that the foundation is able to identify key issues that are emerging and bring together a range of key actors to develop responses.”

Far-reaching Media Coverage

Top media outlets continued to document LibForAll Foundation's pioneering role in developing, and *implementing*, an effective strategy to discredit the ideology of religious hatred that underlies and animates terrorism. This media outreach represents a strategically vital and extremely cost-effective means of reaching a wide audience, educating government officials, and influencing public policy.


Highlights of international media coverage may be found on [LibForAll's website](#).




 “The [LibForAll] foundation hopes to tip the balance toward a message of tolerance. It briefs policy makers in the United States and Europe and works with other organizations that promote tolerance, including the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, a Jewish institution that cosponsored the Bali Holocaust conference. The foundation is also producing a video project that features moderate Muslim leaders from various parts of the world explaining their faith. It plans to distribute the programs to Islamic schools and make the series available for broadcast.”

~ Voice of America, “LibForAll Foundation Promotes Tolerance in Indonesia, Other Muslim Nations,” October 9, 2008


 “Muslim Pop Artists Lead Youthful Resistance against Extremism”

 “In Bali, Indonesia, a gathering of religious leaders and victims of terrorist attacks, sponsored by the US Libforall Foundation, denounced Iran’s president for claiming the Holocaust was a myth.”

~ Arabian Business, “Top Stories of 2007”

 “[LibForAll cofounder] Wahid says moderate Islam stands a greater chance of triumphing over Islamic radicalism once Western leaders stop trying to accommodate Islamic extremists.”

~ Jewish Telegraph Agency, “With Rock Music, Islamic Teachings, Ex-premier Fights for Moderate Islam,” May 19, 2008

 “Still, most of Indonesia’s Muslims remain moderate, and some have begun to fight back,” referring to LibForAll and other moderate organizations, and their struggle against the rise of Islamist groups.

~ New York Times, “Islamic Group Gains Power in Indonesia,” October 6, 2008

 “President Wahid has assumed the mantle of leadership of an international movement dedicated to stemming the tide of radical Islam and reclaiming authentic Islam from those who have corrupted its teachings and used them to promote a repressive political ideology, religious intolerance and terrorism. The lynchpin of this movement is the LibForAll Foundation, an Indonesian-U.S.- and Netherlands-based organization that President Wahid co-founded to propagate models of a prosperous, moderate and tolerant Islam, and to support moderate and progressive Muslims in their efforts to promote a culture of liberty and tolerance.”

~ Reuters/LA Times, “Former Indonesian President Calls upon Muslims to Speak Out Against Extremism during U.S. Visit,” May 7, 2008

LibForAll Foundation Board of Advisors



Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa Bisri

Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa Bisri is often called “Sang Kyai Pembelajar” – the Great Religious Scholar and Teacher – by members of the world’s largest Islamic organization, the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). Widely revered as a religious scholar, poet, novelist, painter and Muslim intellectual, “Gus Mus” (Brother MUsstofa) has strongly influenced the NU’s social and political development over the past thirty years. Mustofa Bisri’s personal philosophy can be seen in the “Mata Air” (“Living Spring”) Community that he heads, whose membership is open to all who share its essential values: “Worship God; respect elders; treat those who are younger with loving kindness; open your heart to all humanity.” He is the senior advisor to LibForAll’s Grassroots Pluralist Network TV/Video series.



Ahmad Syafi'i Ma'arif

Ahmad Syafi'i Ma'arif is the immediate past Chairman (1998-2005) of the world’s second largest Muslim organization, the Muhammadiyah, with 30-million members. Under his leadership, the Muhammadiyah demonstrated a strong commitment to a pluralistic, tolerant and peaceful understanding of Islam, and to the nation of Indonesia. Dr. Ma'arif is a 2008 recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award (often considered Asia’s Nobel Prize) in the category of Peace and International Understanding. He serves as patron and senior advisor to LibForAll’s International Institute of Qur’anic Studies (IIQS), together with LibForAll co-founder Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid.



Amin Abdullah

Amin Abdullah is currently serving his second term as the Rector of Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This was the first and “mother” of all the Islamic State Universities/Institutes (UIN/IAIN/STAIN), and is now one of the leading Islamic universities in Indonesia, with about 15,000 students. Internationally recognized for his role in promoting a modern, pluralistic and tolerant understanding of Islam, Dr. Abdullah helped lead the world’s second-largest Muslim organization, the Muhammadiyah, from

2000-2005, when he served as Vice Chairman of its governing board. He is the author of numerous books and dozens of articles, and frequently speaks at international seminars in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



Azyumardi Azra

Azyumardi Azra is one of Southeast Asia’s most prominent liberal Muslim intellectuals. Born in West Sumatra, Indonesia in 1955, Dr. Azra recently completed two terms (1998-2006) as Rector (President) at the prestigious [Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University](#) (UIN) in Jakarta. Under his leadership, UIN-Jakarta has played a vital role in Indonesia’s transition from authoritarian rule to democracy – promoting a moderate and tolerant understanding of Islam, at peace with itself and the modern world. In this regard, the leadership, faculty and staff at UIN-Jakarta serve as a vital bulwark against the inroads of religious extremism inspired from abroad. Dr. Azra has published 18 books on the subject of Islam and is a regular contributor to Indonesian newspapers and journals. He is also a noted commentator on Indonesian Islam and politics for the Indonesian and international media.



Franz Magnis-Suseno, SJ

Franz Magnis-Suseno, SJ was born in the German province of Silesia (now Poland) in 1936, to a family of devout Roman Catholics. Having survived the horrors of World War II and forcible expulsion from Silesia, the young Franz Magnis escaped to West Germany. He joined the Jesuit Order at the age of nineteen, and moved to Yogyakarta, in the cultural heartland of Java, where he was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1967. He is a widely beloved and immensely popular figure in Indonesia, who appears frequently in interfaith dialogues and on radio, television and in the print media, promoting harmony and respect between Indonesia’s many faiths. Periodically threatened by religious extremists, he responds with a gentleness, love and courage born from his deep faith and religious convictions. He is the author of over 30 books and holds the Distinguished Service Cross (“Das Grosse Verdienstkreuz”) from the Federal Republic of Germany and an honorary doctorate in theology from the University of Lucerne, Switzerland.



Abdul Munir Mulkhan

For many years, Abdul Munir Mulkhan has been an active member of the governing board of the Muhammadiyah, the world's second largest Muslim organization with an estimated 30 million members. He has served as Vice-Secretary of the organization as a whole; as Secretary of the Office for Organization and Cadres; as Secretary of the Council of Religious Interpretation; as a member of the Council for Higher Education Research and Development; as a member of the editorial board of *Suara Muhammadiyah* (the Muhammadiyah's official publication); and as head of the Central Muhammadiyah Board's "Good Governance" Council, with a primary task of eliminating corruption. Dr. Munir is also a member of the faculty of Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He has conducted post-doctoral research at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and served as Visiting Research Fellow at Nanyang Technological University's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in Singapore. He is the author of over 40 books and hundreds of articles published in various Indonesian magazines and newspapers. He currently serves as a LibForAll Foundation Fellow.



Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd

Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd is a pioneer in the field of Qur'anic hermeneutics – examining the Qur'an from a linguistic and contextual perspective to understand its nature, contents and origin. The aim of his research is to suggest a theory of hermeneutics that might enable Muslims to build a bridge between their own tradition and the modern world of freedom, equality, human rights, democracy and globalization. Dr. Abu-Zayd is widely regarded as a reformist hero, for his courage in opposing Islamist attempts to stifle freedom of speech in his native Egypt. The object of death threats issued by Ayman al-Zawahiri (Osama bin Laden's lieutenant) and others, Dr. Abu-Zayd relocated to Europe with his wife in 1995, to teach at the University of Leiden and to occupy the Ibn Rushd Chair of Humanism and Islam at the University of Humanistics in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He was the 2005 recipient of the [Ibn Rushd Prize](#), awarded by the Ibn Rushd Fund for Freedom of

Thought. He is the author of 14 books and scores of articles in his native Arabic, and his writings have been translated into Dutch, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Persian and Turkish. He currently serves as Director of Academics for LibForAll's International Institute of Qur'anic Studies.



Sukardi Rinakit

Sukardi Rinakit is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Soengeng Sarjadi Syndicate (SSS), Jakarta, a non-profit organization that promotes democracy and supports the transformation of civil society. His research focuses on the military, terrorism, security policy, political culture, the process of decentralization, the relationships between religion, politics and civil society, and the protection of human rights in Indonesia. He has published hundreds of articles in leading journals and national newspapers and is extensively quoted in such publications. He has also published numerous books, including a recent one in English, *Indonesian Military after the New Order*. Dr. Sukardi is a close confidante of many Indonesian political leaders, and is privy to the internal dynamics of that nation's military.



Shaykh Musa Abubaker Admani

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Shaykh Musa Abubaker Admani completed his religious doctorates from the Darul-Ulum Deoband orthodoxy in India, and has been an Imam in the UK since the early nineties. His early interest in furthering inter-faith dialogue has earned him a special place amongst faith communities across the UK. A leading moderate thinker, the Shaykh lectures extensively on Islam's role in the West, loyalty to one's country, citizenship, distortion of Jihad as acts of terror and many other contemporary issues. In 2001, he became the first imam to be officially appointed to Higher Education at the London Metropolitan University. He formally established the Luqman Institute of Education and Development in 2003 in order to address the challenges facing Muslim communities in the West and to promote greater civic participation and social harmony.

LibForAll Foundation Board of Directors



C. Holland Taylor, Chairman

LibForAll Chairman and CEO, **C. Holland Taylor**, is an expert on Islam and the process of Islamization in Southeast Asia, having lived, studied and worked in the Muslim world, from Iran to Indonesia, over a period of more than four decades. Under his leadership, LibForAll has grown into the leading NGO developing and *operationalizing* successful counter-extremism strategies worldwide.

Mr. Taylor's work with LibForAll follows a career as a successful entrepreneur and global telecom executive, during which he served as CEO of USA Global Link, and was credited by numerous leading publications as one of the essential catalysts in the deregulation of the global telecommunications industry.



H.E. Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, Patron

Joining Mr. Taylor as LibForAll's co-founder, patron and member of its board of directors is one of the world's leading Muslim clerics, **His Excellency Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid**, who from 1999 – 2001 served as Indonesia's first democratically-elected president.

From 1984 – '99, President Wahid headed the world's largest Muslim organization, the Nahdlatul Ulama, with 40 million members. The recipient of the Friends of the United Nations Global Tolerance Award and the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Medal of Valor, President Wahid actively participates in guiding, promoting and implementing LibForAll Foundation's programs worldwide.

Bret Stephens, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, calls LibForAll co-founder Wahid "the single most influential religious leader in the Muslim world" and "easily the most important ally the West has in the ideological struggle against Islamic radicalism."



Ahmad Dhani

Rock superstar Ahmad Dhani is the managing director of a number of entertainment industry production

companies, including Dewa 19 Management, Ahmad Studio, Ratu, Manusia Biasa and Ahmad Dhani Production. Committed to promoting our shared vision of liberty and tolerance to a mass audience, Dhani has leveraged his celebrity and the tools of popular culture to widely discredit religious extremism, as typified by his group Dewa's best-selling albums, *Laskar Cinta* ("Warriors of Love") and *Republik Cinta* ("Republic of Love").



F. Borden Hanes, Jr.

F. Borden Hanes, Jr.—Vice Chairman of Bowen, Hanes and Company, Investment Counsel—serves as Chairman of the John Wesley and Anna Hodgin Hanes Foundation, and the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts. Mr. Hanes is also the immediate past Chairman of the board of trustees of Old Salem Foundation, and past president of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and SciWorks in Winston-Salem, NC. He is also a long-term board member of the Cancer Center of Wake Forest University Medical Center, the North Carolina Museum of Art, the National Development Council of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Friends of the Library at UNC-Chapel Hill.

We hope you have enjoyed this review of LibForAll Foundation achievements in 2008, and that you will join us in working to accomplish our far-reaching goals for 2009. Your participation and that of your philanthropic network are critical in making sure that we have the resources to support powerful like-minded Muslim opinion leaders, and create an historic turning point in the struggle against religious extremism. Feel free to contact us at:

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LibForAll is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to LibForAll are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.