

## **ISLAM IN THE WEST MEDIA DISTORTION (MEDIA IN CONSTRUCTING ISLAM AS A TERRORIST AND EXTREMIST RELIGION)**

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**Abstract:** *Various media reports that directly or indirectly have formed public opinion that accuses Muslims as a whole as accused of all forms of violence and terrorism on the face of the earth accompanied by extremist acts. Some western media are trying to brainwash the global community that where there are Muslims then there are terrorists and where there are terrorists then there is a threat accompanied by extremist acts. This article aims to see how western media are constructing the message that Islam is the religion of terrorists and extremists. The method used is the study of literature. The results show that the Media has a big impact on a person's view of something and using only symbols of Islam, they can be accused of being terrorists. The media constructs messages in the form of writings or images that link terror acts with Muslims. Muslims, in general, are suspected of being part of terrorists, even for small neighborhoods. So it is clearly seen that the media is trying to form a negative concept of Islam as a religion of terrorists and extremists.*

**Keyword :** *Distortion, Islam, Terrorists, Extremist*

### **INTRODUCTION**

After the September 11 2001 WTC tragedy in New York, the call for war against terrorism and the Islamic community seemed to be an important issue to be discussed throughout the world. This tragedy was also the beginning of the emergence of the concept of Islamophobia, Islamophobia is an even newer term than anti-Semitism. It begins to appear only in the 1980s, but became common after 9/11 . The wave of Islamophobia in various forms is increasingly widespread in Europe and spread to other Western countries. So too is there little doubt about the way in which the events of 9/11 have influenced, and to some degree, fed the growing specter of Islamophobia and with it, the rising incidence and proliferation of anti-Muslim hate crimes.<sup>1</sup>

This wave of Islamophobia coincided with the blow-up of the issue of ISIS, which is an extremist organization in the mass media, which caused Islamophobia in several Western countries to strengthen. As written in the online media International Policy Digest on June I 2015, especially as the terrorist group ISIS continues its relevant campaign of mass killing and executing non-Muslims and threatens to take the fight to the European capitals. ISIS has played a central role in creating skepticism towards Islam in the West that the religion preaches violence. The article

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<sup>1</sup> Allen, Chris. Exploring the Impact of Islamophobia on Visible Muslim Women Victims: A British Case Study. *Journal of Muslims in Europe*, Volume 3, Issue 2, 137-159. 2014.

appeared right after the bombings that occurred in France and were strongly suspected to have been carried out by the Islamic State group.

This of course will lead to a distortion of information in the frame of a media so as to provide a different understanding or meaning for each individual. This potential has a major impact on two things. The first is the emergence of a new power that has the potential to threaten the sustainability of western countries and the second is the emergence of a kind of expression of fear of Islam known as Islamophobia. Several mass media in the West continuously raise views or news or are loaded with Islamophobia. The second is to provide another understanding or public opinion on the Islamic religion and the Muslim community.

According to former Sunday Express journalist Yvonne Riddley at a conference held by the Islamic Society (ISOC) at the University of Essex that misunderstandings or distortions of this message are often widely portrayed by the media in the name of freedom of journalism which then causes the emergence of Islamophobia or fear of Islam in America and Europe. <sup>2</sup>

Mass media coverage around the world every day discusses terrorism. Various media reports that directly or indirectly have shaped public opinion that cornered Muslims as a whole. One of the principles of public opinion according to Rockomy<sup>3</sup> among others, some of which are public opinion is very sensitive to important events. In this case, the important events are the tragedy of the WTC 11 September 2001 and the Bali Bombings on 12 October 2002.

The above incident turned out to have a negative impact on Muslims around the world. Various treatments of discrimination hit Muslims. Starting from deportation, the prohibition of the use of religious symbols such as headscarves, beards and so on, intimidation and various other treatments. Primordial jealousy and hatred that intensified after 9/11, brought back propaganda attacks to corner Islam as the accused for all forms of violence and terrorism on this earth accompanied by acts of extremism.

The main factor that causes the emergence of stereotypes against Islam in the West is the construction of messages or meanings by the media about the Muslim community so that this illustrates a distortion of information that has a negative impact on Islam. This is like the appearance of several articles that are commonly heard or seen in the news about Muslims including "extremists" or "terrorists". These words are misleading and especially on the anti-Islam. The media rarely use more neutral terms such as "revival" or

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<sup>2</sup><http://budaya.rimanews.com/agama/read/20160209/260495/Media-Barat-Penyebab-Munculnya-Islamophobia-di-Amerika-dan-Eropa>.

<sup>3</sup> Olij, Helena. 2007. *Opini Publik*. Jakarta: PT. Indeks

"progressive". The majority of reports in the media talk about Islamic fundamentalism and usually portray the vast majority of Muslims as extremists. such as Time magazine published a photo in which Muslim soldiers demonstrated performing prayers with weapons. The caption under the image says, "Weapons and prayer go together in the fundamentalist battle". The Magazine section omitted that Muslim soldiers were praying on the battlefield in Afghanistan and the situation meant the soldiers had to remain armed at all times in case of an ambush at all times.

Salah satu fungsi dari keberadaan media yaitu sebagai media dan arena dalam membahas dan menyiarkan berbagai macam wacana atau topik dan perkembangan gagasan atau ide dalam masyarakat sebuah negara, dalam penyebaran ide-ide dalam bentuk ideologi biasa dilakukan dengan cara objektif, netral dan bebas nilai atau dengan cara manipulatif, rekayasa dan penggiringan serta pembentukan opini. Pada akhirnya media sulit bersifat netral dan *cover both side* dalam pemberitaanya. Ideologi media secara mikro bukan sebagai cerminan dari sebuah realitas sosial, tetapi bisa saja sebagai representasi dari ideologi media. Media justru dapat menjadi subyek yang mengkonstruksi realitas berdasarkan penafsiran dan definisinya sendiri untuk disebarkan kepada khalayak.

The issue of humanity and Islam has become a kind of discourse that has never been discussed until now. Various reports that tend to discredit Islam are synonymous with terrorists. Such information distortion creates an image to the world community, resulting in misunderstandings in receiving information. Distortion of information often occurs in various media, especially in virtual media which is an attempt to distort Islam, thus creating a decay in the image of Islam. Currently the image of Islam is distorted by the Western media, especially the media in Germany. Detlef Pollack, a sociologist, told Deutsche Welle about his latest study showing half of Germans see Islam as a threat to their country and not compatible with the West. <sup>4</sup>

Due to the dominance of the discourse of Islamic terrorists, the mainstream media in the West fail to present the majority of Muslims around the world who live simply and peacefully without resorting to violence. To this day, the term Islamic terrorist is still used by leading media in the West such as the BBC and Foxnews. Of course, these Western media almost never mention Jewish terrorists, Catholic terrorists, or Hindu and Buddhist terrorists. In addition, Western media also often popularize the term Islamic bomb, but almost never use the terms Christian bomb, Jewish bomb, Hindu bomb, or Confucian bomb in their reporting. This negative labeling is done to portray that Islam is a religion of violence.

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<sup>4</sup> Pollack, Detlef, 2012, "Memantau Agama" oleh Yayasan Bertelsmann, Jerman

Previously an article in *Republika* 2005, a study by the European Center for Monitoring Racism and Xenophobia, an EU-established institution, found that Muslims are often the victims of negative stereotypes including in mass media coverage . In addition to film media, the most common method used by western media to discredit Islam is through mass media, either print or electronic. Islam is always portrayed as a terrorist whose existence can threaten western civilization. Some western media are trying to brainwash the global community that where there are Muslims there are terrorists and where there are terrorists there is a threat accompanied by extremist actions.

At the end of January 2010, *The Guardian* newspaper conducted a survey and found that the mass media and politicians are the two things that are causing an increase in Islamophobia in the UK. And that same year, Khalilah Sabra, director of the Muslim American Society's Freedom Foundation in North Carolina, said the Muslim community was still concerned about the Islamophobic treatment there. And some time ago, in the same place, North Caroline, those worries came true. Three Muslims were shot dead by an atheist, Craig Stephen Hicks. As usual, the western media seemed silent. Yet they often refer to themselves as democratic media. For example, CNN media from the United States is touted as a new world news mecca which reported it the day after the incident.<sup>5</sup>

In this era, we see that the current media coverage is so imbalanced. The western media was so focused on the Charlie Habdo and Paris shootings. While they forget the many other shootings that kill Muslims, but they seem to cover it up. The same applies to how the Rohingya were expelled from their own country and how the Chapel Hill shooting took place. Even in every religion, there is not one in which there are people who are 100% well-behaved. The media in their reporting such as CNN tried to cover up the case by not calling it a terrorist act. The same thing was done by another western media, Fox News. Netizens are busy comparing the attitude of the two western media to the shooting incident in Paris some time ago. The shooting incident of the editorial crew of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris was reported massively and quickly.

Based on the description above, the purpose of this study is to analyze how the media constructs the meaning of Islamophobia as an extremist act that is close to terrorism so that it creates stereotypes against Muslims.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://makassar.tribunnews.com/2015/02/20/islam-dalam-media-barat>.

The research used on this occasion uses a qualitative paradigm by prioritizing literature studies. This method was chosen because it is considered appropriate to explain and describe the dynamics or phenomena that are the focus of the research. In addition, this method is also more flexible in obtaining data that is deemed necessary to reach a conclusion that is the focus of research. This research is library research. To help the writer collect the required data. In library research, the writer will use descriptive analytical method. The selection of this descriptive analytical method is based on the interest in writing to answer the phenomenon of developing reality related to the issue of media demonology about how global media construct media messages against Islam so that it raises the meaning of Islamophobia as an extremist act close to terrorism.

## **THEORITICAL REVIEW**

### **1. Islamophobia**

Islamophobia is a new word used to refer to the irrational fear or prejudice against Muslims and the Islamic religion for condemning Islam and its history as extremist, and viewing Islam as a problem for the world. The "Islamophobia Observatory" at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) defines Islamophobia as "irrational or intense fear or dislike of Islam". Its manifestations include prejudice, stereotypes, hostility, discriminatory treatment, slander of the most sacred symbols of Islam and also non-recognition of Islam and Muslims by state law. The Runnymede report is believed to define Islamophobia as: "... Unfounded hostility towards Islam. It refers also to the practical consequences of hostility such as unfair discrimination against Muslim individuals and communities, and by exclusion of Muslims from mainstream political and social affairs."<sup>6</sup>

Definisi islamophobia pernah dituliskan oleh Duta Besar Orhun dan dipublikasikan oleh OIC pada tahun 2011, "Islamophobia is a contemporary form of racism and xenophobia motivated by unfounded fear, mistrust and hatred of Muslims and Islam. Islamophobia is also manifested through intolerance, discrimination and adverse public discourse against Muslims and Islam. Differentiating from classical racism and xenophobia, Islamophobia is mainly based on radicalisation of Islam and its followers." Menurut Esposito dan Mogahed,<sup>7</sup> "Islamophobia was created to describe two forms of racism and is rooted both in the 'different' physical appearance of Muslims and also in the intolerance of their religious and cultural beliefs."

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<sup>6</sup> Bleich, Erik. *What Is Islamophobia and How Much Is There? Theorizing and Measuring an Emerging Comparative Concept*. American Behavioral Scientist Vol. 55 No. 12. 1582-1600. 2011.

<sup>7</sup> John L. Esposito, Dalia Mogahed, *Battle For Muslims' Hearts And Minds: The Road Not (Yet) Taken*. Middle East Policy, Vol. Xiv, No. 1, Spring 2007.

The Runnymede Trust identifies six components of Islamophobia as follows:<sup>8</sup>

1. Islam is seen as a monolithic bloc, static and unresponsive to change
2. Islam is seen as separate and 'other'. It does not have the same values as other cultures, is not influenced by them and does not affect them
3. Islam is seen as inferior to the West. This is barbaric, irrational, primitive and sexist
4. Muslims are seen as violent, aggressive, threatening, supporting terrorism and involved in clashes of civilizations
5. Islam is seen as a political ideology and used for political or military gain
6. Muslim criticism from the West is rejected
7. Hostility towards Islam is used to justify discriminatory practices against Muslims and the exclusion of Muslims from mainstream society
8. Anti-Muslim hostility is accepted as 'normal' and natural'

Likewise, Western media portrayals of Islam and Muslim Islamophobia. The Western media has consistently used value-laden accurate language to portray Islam as a dangerous religion rooted in violence and irrationality. the media are the easiest and most indiscriminate spreaders of Islamophobic ideas at local and global levels. If the Western media portrays Islam in a positive and balanced way, the future of this relationship will be harmonious. On the other hand, if the picture is negative and not objective, the future of relations between Islam and the West will be even worse. Western media has a very important role in coloring the image of Islam in the eyes of the Western public in general. Western media is also one of the determining factors for harmonious relations between Islam and the West in the future.

Phobia comes from the Greek, "phobos" which means "fear". Fear, in psychology, is a feeling of anxiety and agitation as a response to a threat. In response, people exhibit the avoidance behavior that is the hallmark of all phobias.<sup>9</sup> In Psychology, Phobias are included in the study of abnormal psychology. A phobic disorder is by definition a persistent fear of an object or thing that is disproportionate to the threat. Fear is normal as long as there is an objective basis for the fear, but the person who has a phobia will experience an exaggerated fear far beyond the size of the danger faced.

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<sup>8</sup> Mohammad H. Tamdgidi. *University Of Massachusetts, Boston Islamophobia Studies Journal* Volume 1, No. 1, Spring 2012, Pp. 54-81.

<sup>9</sup> Moordiningsih. Islamophobia dan Strategi Mengatasinya. Dalam *Buletin Psikologi*, Tahun XII, No. 2, Desember 2004.

In the study of abnormal psychology, phobias are divided into two, namely specific phobias and social phobias. The term Islamophobia was coined similarly to symptoms of psychological illness related to fear of things such as acrophobia (fear of heights), claustrophobia (fear of closed places) and agrophobia (phobia of markets). Although Islamophobia is not a psychological phenomenon, psychological explanations seem sufficient to help us understand Islamophobia. The phobic suffix behind the word "Islam"—said David Horowitz himself—explains that all forms of fear addressed to Islam are basically irrational. Which means that all the fears of the international world towards Islam today are unreasonable. The fears that arise are the contribution of media messages that preach continuously about the link between the cruel acts of terrorism and Islam.

Some western media are clearly trying to construct the meaning of Islamophobia in the world community, so as to create a brand for Islamic groups, whether they are hardline or just ordinary groups. As Said (1997), Shaheen (2001), and Jackson (2010) have argued, the Western media routinely stereotypes Arabs and Muslims as terrorists and racial "Others". So lately, people are no longer awkward to talk about Islamophobia. In fact, this view has become a belief of some people who continue to follow the news about terrorism.

## **2. Terrorism**

The definition of terrorism is still being debated even though there are experts who have formulated it and also formulated it in the legislation. However, the absence of a uniform definition under international law regarding terrorism does not necessarily negate the legal definition of terrorism. Each country defines according to its national law to regulate, prevent and combat terrorism.<sup>10</sup>

Terrorism is usually defined briefly as the "peak of violence", terrorism is the apex of violence. Violence can occur without terror but there is no terror without violence. Violence can occur without terror but there is no terror without violence. Creating a deep sense of fear and anxiety is the goal of terrorists. For this reason, terrorists usually carry out mental warfare, psychological warfare as part of a propaganda strategy to frighten or threaten others. Kent Lyne Oots in his book *A Political Organization Approach to Transnational Terrorism* proposes a number of definitions of "terrorism" including "a criminal act that tends to seek publicity."

In other words, any intentional and random use of force against a protected group is an act of terrorism. The perpetrators can be individuals, groups, states or state agents. Terrorism is

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<sup>10</sup> Indriyanto Seno Adji, 2001, *Terorisme dan HAM" dalam Terorisme: Tragedi Umat Manusia*, (Jakarta: O.C. Kaligis & Associates), Jakarta

coordinated attacks aimed at evoking feelings of terror against a group of people. In contrast to war, acts of terrorism are not subject to war procedures such as the execution time which is always sudden and the target of random casualties and often civilians..

If it is related to the existence of mass media in the contemporary realm, especially with regard to global anti-terrorism propaganda in the style of the United States, one of the means for mental warfare (terrorism) is the media. Regarding terrorism, Herbert Strentz in *News Reporters and News Sources*, 1989 stated "terrorism is not a phenomenon that characterizes the 20th century, but this act has become increasingly prominent because of news media coverage."

### 3. Extremism

Extremism is an expression to refer to the actions of people who are against the Shari'a' who take a very sharp position between one of two opposing sides, each of which aims to realize certain goals, or change certain social status in a way that against religion. As for Islamic extremism, individuals are committed to restructuring political society according to their vision of Islamic law and are willing to use violence to achieve their goals; three types: irredentist, nationalist and transnational.<sup>11</sup>

Whereas many sources of Islamic extremism for moderate Muslims are political or economic, while the sources of extremism for extremists themselves are mainly religion or ideology. As in a May 1998 interview on ABC news, Osama bin Laden articulated his view that the current conflict between the Muslim world and the West is a religious conflict.

"All who worship Allah, not one another, are equal before Him. We are entrusted to spread this message and to extend that call to everyone. We are, nonetheless, against their government and all those who condone their injustice are training against us. We are against a government bent on attacking our religion and stealing our wealth. . . ."<sup>12</sup>

Their ideological principles include the rejection of all other systems (e.g., democracy, liberalism, communism, socialism, etc.) which are not based on the Qur'an, Sunnah (acts and sayings of the Prophet) and Hadith (traditions of the Prophet), the adoption of sharia law absolute, legitimacy of offensive and defensive jihad against infidels (kafir), use of violence against "apostate" Muslim governments and the concept of takfir (to ostracize or declare as infidels) where extremists legitimize violence against Muslims who do not agree with their version of Islam. In addition, some

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<sup>11</sup> John D. Johnson, Maj, Usa, *Analysis Of The Sources Of Islamic Extremism*. A Thesis Presented To The Faculty Of The Us Army Command And General Staff College In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Degree. 2007

<sup>12</sup> Lewis, Bernard. 1998. License to Kill: Usama bin Ladin's Declaration of Jihad. *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1998.



extremist ideologues such as bin Laden want a return to the caliphate (pan-Islamic state) as it was from the seventh century under Muhammad's successor.

Extremism groups are those who basically oppose existing rules such as state constitutional rules, legal norms, or rules that also reject democracy. Often this movement is interpreted as a left-wing movement which by their own rules carries out state rules and even religious rules as previously stated. Not infrequently, this group eventually destroys the existing social order.

*Extremism in terms of terrorism, racism, xenophobia, interethnic and inter-religious hatred, left-or right-wing political radical-ism and religious fundamentalism is essentially a political term which determines those activities that are not morally, ideologically or politically in accordance with written (legal and constitutional) and non-written norms of the state; that are fully in-tolerant toward others and reject democracy as a means of governance and the way of solving problems; and finally, that reject the existing social order.*<sup>13</sup>

Usually, extremist groups are strong groups and have strong networks around the world. Islamist extremist organizations are part of a global network that allows them to survive even if they have been defeated at home.<sup>14</sup> Strong networks and organizations that are also considered strong, make this group often feared by countries that are considered contrary to the concept of their movement.

## **DISCOURSE**

### **1. Terrorism and Islam in the face of international media**

Terrorism is one of the global issues that is still the main focus in several international media. Indonesia Indicator released in RMOL.co on December 27, 2015 said that international terrorism was the most widely reported crime in online media throughout the world throughout 2015. It is proven by dominating the news in 1,230 national online media and international online media in English. Cyber crime and drug trafficking are second and third respectively.

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<sup>13</sup> Sotlar, Andrej. 2004. Some Problems with a Definition and Perception of Extremism within a Society. (ed) by Gorazd Mesko, Milan Pagon, and Bojan Dobovsek, and published by the Faculty of Criminal Justice, University of Maribor, Slovenia.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*

Most issues of international terrorism become global issues and involve the leaders of major countries, such as the United States, France, Israel, Australia, and the United Kingdom.<sup>15</sup> The two data released by several Indonesian online media show that the level of global media information on terrorism issues is very high. For the author, this can happen due to two possibilities, the first is the increasing frequency of attacks in the form of acts of terror by radical groups and the second is the desire to form a global public impression of this terrorist issue.

There are several differences by some media in constructing an event into a news story. Every media has a way and tendency to present a news. This is because media policies and journalists' backgrounds can influence in determining what news will be published and which parts are the focus of the news and other parts that are not reported (Nugroho and Eriyanto and Urdialis, 1999: 20; Nelson and Clawson and Oxley, 1997). : 567-568, in 2015). However, what is of concern is when the news that is written has an influence on the perception of the wider community. Especially if it creates a stereotype that results in the discriminating of a group. For example, the news written by one of the major media outlets of the New York Times in June 2016 Juni: <sup>16</sup>

*The convictions capped an investigation that began in 2014 and has led to six other young men pleading guilty to terrorism charges, and once again shined a harsh light on radicalization among young men in the country's largest Somali community. Law-enforcement authorities have said that more than 20 young men from Minnesota have left to join the Shabab militant group in Somalia and that more than 15 have tried or succeeded in leaving to join the Islamic State.* <sup>17</sup>

The news as a whole contains about the sentences handed down to several young Somali who are suspected of joining radical radical groups. One thing that is noted in this news is that the mistakes of the youths to be sentenced are because of the desire of those who are suspected of wanting to join the Islamic State.

In recent times, the name or designation of the Islamic State has often been the subject of discussion which is closely associated with the world's most violent terrorist group, ISIS. Online media, both through written news and videos, try to describe this organization. The Indonesian National Media, which is also quite large, Kompas, is not inferior in reporting on organizations that are considered to have originated from countries in the eastern region, namely Iraq.

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<sup>15</sup><https://www.republika.co.id/berita/nasional/umum/15/12/27/o005p1372-terorisme-internasional-isu-kejahatan-paling-disorot-di-media-sepanjang-2015> (Di akses pada 13 Maret 2021, pada 23:00 wib)

<sup>16</sup><http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/04/us/somali-americans-verdict-minneapolis-isis.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FTerrorism&r=0> (diakses pada 14 Maret 2021 pukul 11:45 wib)

<sup>17</sup>Ibid

One of those groups was the ISI, which is now the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). They have been fighting in Iraq for several years and have thousands of well-trained and fanatical soldiers. They have taken control of northern Iraq and are eager to establish a state based on their own religion. Their arrival turned the war in Syria into a situation no one had anticipated before. ISIS was so brutal and radical that the group immediately went to war with almost every other faction within the Syrian rebel circle. They attack and kill members of other terrorist groups. In the controlled areas, they established an Islamic state with very strict rules, even when compared to Al-Qaeda. Saudi Arabia was surprised and withdrew its support.<sup>18</sup>

Media Daily Express, constructed the news with the title “BRIGHTON TERROR PLOT: Teen ISIS jihadis 'planned' gun and knife attack on seaside town”, on April 5, 2016. In general, the news conveys that there are several residents of seaside town Brighton, England who belonging to the ISIS group planned their axis of terror, “The 28 strong gang, which includes five teenage girls who converted to Islam, were thought to be planning a terror attack in Brighton using knives or a pistol.”

The form of the news content is sufficient to show the closeness between Islam and terrorist acts, with the statement that the perpetrators of these acts of terror tried to save themselves by going to Syria, which had previously been programmed to carry out radicalization actions. “Names of the 28 had appeared on lists of people deemed to be at risk of traveling to Syria, and were known to counter-terrorism police. Roughly 60 per cent of the crew are Islamic converts, and at least one girl had previously been referred to the government's counter-radicalisation programme, Channel.”

Previously, on July 1, 2015 Daily Express had reported the relationship between ISIS and Muslims. With the title “More than 42 MILLION Muslims 'support ISIS' – as experts warn the figure will grow”. The Daily tries to emphasize that support for groups that are often considered to carry out acts of terror by means of violence are mostly carried out by Muslims. This news media is indeed known as one of the media that often reports about acts of terrorism associated with Islamic groups. Even several times, the news seems to generalize the world's Muslims.

This is because those who did the shooting were Muslims themselves. The newspapers CNN and Fox News listed the perpetrators as terrorists. In the Charlie Hebdo incident, perpetrators were labeled as terrorists, so it is different with the Chapel Hill Shooting incident, non-Muslim perpetrators were called “a man” or someone. Two terms in English have different meanings. The term “safe” in the editorial sentences of CNN and Fox News is an attempt to protect the perpetrators from being labeled as terrorists. However, the mind and heart can read that it was a

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<sup>18</sup> <http://internasional.kompas.com/read/2014/08/05/09525751/Bagaimana.ISIS.Terbentuk>.

terrorist act that shot dead three Muslims. This different treatment of western media also emphasizes discrimination against Muslims.

Not only through news texts, the meaning of Islam also appears through news in the form of images. The face of terrorists as reported, is more often shown with symbols of Muslims. Such as wearing a robe, bearded for men, using a veil for women, or with symbols that read Arabic letters. Even if the perpetrators of the terrorists are as shown in the form of symbols and images.



Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.

Figure 1, written quite loudly and largely about the Daily Express accusations against Muslim groups. With the words "Muslim Plot to Kill Pope", this media seems to want to show the "horror" of Islamic terrorist groups against groups outside them. Figure 2 (Islamic State militarism are planning terror outrages in the UK/ July 2015), still in the Daily Express media, but published through on-line media. This section does not write directly about Islam or its groups. However, the existing symbols indicate the identity of a religion. One of them has Arabic words and is a part of the Islamic group. As well as Figure 3, implies various symbols owned by Islam. That is the robe (red: veil) that covers almost all parts of the body, along with the lafaz wrapped around their heads.

The three images are only a small sample of media images that try to describe Islam and terrorism groups. There are still many examples of images or writings in the mass media, both print and online, that link acts of terrorism with Islamic groups. Most of the acts of terror that have occurred in the world have been carried out by groups claiming to be Muslims. However, the media coverage that is very general does not only make the world community (especially Europe) not sympathize with the perpetrators of terror. What is bigger than that is the stereotype imposed on

all Muslim communities. So that the Muslim identity as an adherent of a belief that justifies the act of terrorism and murder is something that is understood to be done.

## **2. Stereotypes to Rejection of Islam as a terrorist and extremist religion**

Terrorism and extremist movements do not only give concern to the target group or those who are contrary to the concept of the struggle of radical groups such as ISIS. Muslims also feel worried when the group continues to carry out attacks on religious grounds or better known as the concept of "jihad". The term "Muslim terrorist" will generally sound that all Muslims are terrorists, or only Muslims who carry out acts of terrorism. Even though it is possible for non-Muslim groups to carry out these acts of terror, or by using only Muslim symbols, they carry out acts of terrorism.

After the WTC incident as the beginning of the re-explosion of the image of Muslims as terrorists, almost the entire world community condemned the action and some of them even boycotted or warned every Muslim who would enter their country or use Islamic symbols. As written in the Journal of Muslims in Europe by Chriss Allen,

*"Over the course of three months in 2013, Allen conducted in-depth interviews with 20 British Muslim women between the ages of 16 and 52, and from Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Arab, Somali, British backgrounds. Most of the women interviewed experienced "low-level" harassment, most often in the form of verbal abuse. Women reported being taunted with comparisons to terrorists, and reported that it was their veil that seemed to spark the ire of their aggressors who shouted things like "take that fucking thing off" and "yuck." One woman was called "Mrs. Osama Bin Laden" and told to "go back to Afghanistan."*

From this explanation, almost all women in the study expressed their feelings of humiliation, anger, sadness, isolation, and hatred. Significantly, these feelings are debilitating, and in some cases completely changing the way women live. Some are afraid to leave their homes or go shopping. Others also reported that they were forced to go outside, while some indicated that their children could no longer play with neighbors. Extremist acts carried out by Muslims in recent years such as several hostage takings, kidnappings or attacks on places of worship and world trade places of the WTC and the Pentagon on September 11, which resulted in some people asking about the reasons for Islam and Muslims carrying out such violent acts. Whereas in Islamic sharia law it is not allowed in some circumstances to even use the force of weapons or violence except only to defend themselves and the Islamic community.

This, which intersects with stereotypes from other communities, of course also has its own resistance against Muslim groups. They question it as a form of artificial injustice for them. In fact, the American president at that time was questioned about the claims he made to Muslim groups.

*Muslims are now asking, if, as Mr Bush claims, the attacks on New York and Washington were an assault on civilization", why shouldn't Muslims regard an attack on Afghanistan as a war on Islam? Salam al-Marayati, director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council in Los Angeles, noted that radicals calling themselves Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Christian commit violent acts in various parts of the world, too. "These movements are equally fanatic and threatening, but extremism in the Muslim world receives disproportionate alarm" <sup>19</sup>*

The concerns of other Muslims are clearly justified, so that the world community who receives media news can distinguish which groups are clearly committing violence and which groups are not. Journalists have an important role in this issue. Because apart from being the first gate of information sources, they also spread the values that become the grip among the community.

Islamophobia does not only have an impact on the stereotypes of the world community towards Islam. But more than that, there is a rejection of Islam in several countries. As written by huffingtonpost.com (8/11/11).

*"Not only did Muslim Americans die on that day, they have since suffered psychological and emotional trauma as no other group of Americans has. No other community has been more maligned, disrespected, misrepresented, harassed, intimidated, misunderstood or rendered suspect — not only by private citizens acting on their First Amendment rights, but by military personnel, public utilities, government officials and agencies, indeed, even presidential candidates, who either openly express anti-Muslim bigotry or display a conspicuously high tolerance for such. <sup>20</sup>*

Growing up with an Islamophobia background is clearly detrimental to Muslim groups, especially those located in European countries who tend to aggressively reject Islam in their place. In addition to the psychological impact on Muslims, Islamophobia also has a social impact on the surrounding community, because they will always live in fear and vigilance.

## CONCLUSION

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<sup>19</sup> Faatin Haque, Global Media, Islamophobia And Its Impact On Conflict Resolution. Programs Director Institute Of Hazrat Mohamamad

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sherman-a-jackson/911-a-decade-later-islamophobia\\_b\\_952154.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sherman-a-jackson/911-a-decade-later-islamophobia_b_952154.html)

The media has a big impact on the way a person views things. The formation of public opinion simultaneously, can lead to simultaneous forms of movement, either in the form of accepting or rejecting. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the West, but the West has many stereotypes of Islam caused by the media, prejudice and ignorance. Islam is often seen as "extremist", "terrorist", or a "fundamental" religion and the emergence of the term Islamophobia, which is an irrational fear or prejudice against Muslims and the Islamic religion for condemning Islam and its history as extremist, and viewing Islam as a problem for the world.

Even by using only Islamic symbols, they can be accused of being terrorists. The type of fear which in psychology is a feeling of anxiety and agitation as a response to a threat appears along with the role of the media in constructing messages that continue to emphasize that terrorists are always related to Islam, that Islam is a religion that always prioritizes ways of violence to solve problems. . The media often construct messages in the form of writing or pictures that link acts of terror with Muslims. As a result, there is a lot of rejection of Muslims in several countries, especially European countries that reject the existence of Muslims or who use Islamic symbols. Muslims, in general, are suspected of being part of terrorists, even in small circles. So it is clear that the media are trying to form a negative concept of Islam as a terrorist and extremist religion.

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