

Sharia is the Solution to the Drug Problem in Indonesia

News:

Indonesia plans to amend its drug laws, sending users to rehabilitation instead of prison under the "restorative justice" approach in the new Criminal Code set for 2026. Coordinating Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra aims to address prison overcrowding, as 70% of inmates face drug-related charges. While penalties for drug trafficking remain severe, experts argue rehabilitation could shift overcrowding to treatment centers and advocate for decriminalization. They urge a health-focused approach, education, and targeting major dealers rather than small-scale users. Former user Jennifer Agatha emphasizes personal discipline and commitment to recovery, saying drugs only create problems. www.abc.net.au

Comment :

The issue of drug trafficking and abuse in Indonesia continues to show an alarming upward trend. As of October 2024, a total of 38,786 drug-related cases have been uncovered, with Jakarta identified as the most vulnerable area. Furthermore, the National Police reported that from January to October 20, 2024, they handled 36,451 drug cases. These figures highlight the severity of the drug threat in Indonesia, where trafficking networks are becoming increasingly entrenched and involve various actors.

This rise in drug-related cases is driven by several underlying factors. One major factor is corruption within law enforcement agencies. Corruption undermines efforts to combat drug trafficking effectively. Some officials, who are tasked with upholding the law, are instead complicit in drug networks, either by accepting bribes or actively participating in the trade. This creates loopholes that enable drug syndicates to operate even under the watch of law enforcement authorities.

Another significant factor is the lack of public awareness and understanding of the dangers of drugs. Limited education on this issue leaves society, particularly the younger generation, vulnerable to the temptation of trying drugs. The lack of access to accurate and impactful information about the detrimental effects of drugs exacerbates the situation, especially among the productive age group. Many fail to realize the grave risks posed by drug abuse, whether in terms of health, social life, or future prospects.

The drug problem in Indonesia also stems from weak law enforcement and socio-economic inequality. Corruption in law enforcement erodes the deterrent effect of penalties for drug offenses, giving offenders a sense of impunity to continue their illegal activities. On the other hand, socio-economic disparities push individuals to seek income through unlawful means, such as drug trafficking. This is further exacerbated by low educational attainment, which limits people's understanding of the risks and consequences of engaging in drug-related activities.

From an Islamic perspective, addressing the drug problem requires a comprehensive approach. Islam emphasizes the importance of strict and fair enforcement of laws against all violations, including drug-related offenses. Proportionate punishments are expected to deter offenders and discourage others from committing similar crimes. Furthermore, Islam promotes the cultivation of a society grounded in religious values, which teach individuals to avoid harmful behaviors like drug abuse. Strong religious education is key to equipping individuals with firm moral and ethical principles.

Islam also underscores the state's obligation to ensure the welfare of its citizens by meeting their basic needs, such as education, healthcare, and employment. Mechanisms like zakat (almsgiving) and infaq (charitable contributions) serve as direct support for the poor and underprivileged, addressing the root causes of socio-economic disparities.

The enforcement of Islamic law, however, can only be effectively implemented under an Islamic state led by a caliph. By applying sharia law comprehensively, the drug problem can be addressed with precision and depth, ensuring both prevention and justice in tackling this pressing issue.

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