



**Title: Webinar on “Indonesia's approach to Counter Violent Extremism”**

**Event Date:** August 17, 2026

**Venue:** CAPES Office, Islamabad/ Online International Webinar

**Time:** 12:00-14:00

**Moderator:** Muneeb Salman, Senior Research Analyst, CAPES

The Consortium for Asia Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES) organized an online webinar on "Indonesia's approach to Counter Extremism" by Dr Noor Huda Ismail, Visiting Fellow at RSIS and the founder of the Institute for International Peace Building.

Dr. Ismail emphasized that Pakistan and Indonesia have lived through different versions of the same challenge from Muslim-majority societies, strong traditions of Islamic education, young and highly connected populations, and direct experience of terrorism and violent extremism. He noted that Indonesia's counter-extremism journey is divided into four phases: counterterrorism, deradicalization, prevention, and resilience. He also noted that people don't join an extremist movement because somebody hands them an ideology; rather, they are offered something more human, such as friendship, belonging, purpose, recognition, or something that answers their frustration.

Dr. Ismail stated that extremism thrives by answering the three fundamental needs, which is the 3H (Head, Hand, and Heart) framework: belonging (Heart), agency (Hand), and narrative meaning (Head). He emphasized that the radicalizers exploit the gap by nurturing a cause or grievance and giving people a sense of belonging, which makes it hard to leave.

He noted his own learning from the former JI members, that radicalization is relational before it is ideological; a person may encounter an idea online, but trust usually comes through people. He



said that the internet didn't invent radicalization, but it changes the speed, scale, and architecture of recruitment. The recruitment process has not simply moved online, but it has become hybrid.

Dr. Ismail also emphasized that the problem is not exclusively religious, and Islam is just part of the vocabulary of mobilization; it is not the explanation for extremism. We need to examine identity, networks, grievances, and opportunities, not just the religious teaching this person received. He stated that we need to adopt the whole-of-society approach, because the state cannot fight extremism alone, and Indonesia and Pakistan are converging on this.

President CAPES, Dr Khuram Iqbal, delivered the opening remarks and commended the success of Indonesia's policy to ensure zero terrorist attacks annually since the Bali bombings in 2002. He noted the need to learn from Indonesia's experience and adopt a similar attitude to ensure comprehensive counter-violent extremism policies in Pakistan.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session. President CAPES Dr Khuram Iqbal delivered the concluding remarks and extended a vote of thanks to the participants.

