



## **The Possibility of Social Conflict in the Momentum of General Elections in the Sociological Perspective of Islamic Law**

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**Abstract:** The general election contest that is being held is very prone to causing conflict in society. This research aims to identify forms of social conflict, factors that cause social conflict, and the sociological perspective of Islamic law on the vulnerability of social conflict in general elections. So far, social conflict studies in general elections have mostly been studied from a social and norm perspective, but this research tries to look at the vulnerability of social conflict during general elections from the sociological perspective of Islamic law. This research is qualitative research using data obtained from online news. This research found that social conflict during general elections can take the form of arguments or debates and physical conflicts. There are at least three causes of social conflict, namely polarization or negative campaigns, selective fanaticism, and allegations of fraud. Preventing social conflict needs to be carried out using a sociological approach to Islamic law by upholding human rights, being moderate towards differences maintaining the value of balance, and being gentle. This research concludes that the sociological conception of Islamic law can be a solution to resolving social conflicts by prioritizing Islamic values. Therefore, the author suggests the need for government attention to avoid social conflict in general elections. Apart from that, support from religious figures and ulama is needed through counseling and issuing fatwas regarding the prohibition of social conflict in general elections because social conflict can damage relationships and values in society.

**Keywords:** Social conflict, general elections, sociology of Islamic law

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**Abstrak:** *Kontestasi pemilihan umum yang dilaksanakan sangat rawan menimbulkan konflik dalam masyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk konflik sosial, faktor penyebab konflik sosial dan perspektif sosiologi hukum Islam terhadap kerentanan konflik sosial dalam pemilihan umum. Sejauh ini studi konflik sosial pemilihan umum lebih banyak dikaji dalam perspektif sosial dan norma, namun penelitian ini mencoba melihat kerentanan konflik sosial pada momentum pemilihan umum dalam perspektif sosiologi hukum Islam. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan data yang diperoleh dari berita online. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa konflik sosial pada momentum pemilihan umum dapat berupa konflik argumentasi atau perdebatan dan konflik secara fisik. Setidaknya ada tiga penyebab konflik sosial yaitu polarisasi atau kampanye negatif, fanatisme pilihan dan dugaan kecurangan. Pencegahan konflik sosial perlu dilakukan dengan pendekatan sosiologi hukum Islam dengan menjunjung tinggi hak asasi manusia, bersikap moderat atas perbedaan serta memelihara nilai keseimbangan dan berlaku lemah lembut. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa konsepsi sosiologi hukum Islam dapat menjadi solusi penyelesaian konflik sosial dengan mengedepankan nilai-nilai Islam. Oleh karena itu penulis menyarankan perlunya perhatian pemerintah agar tidak terjadi konflik sosial dalam pemilihan umum. Selain itu, perlu dukungan dari tokoh agama dan ulama melalui penyuluhan dan mengeluarkan fatwa-fatwa terkait larangan konflik sosial dalam pemilihan umum karena konflik sosial dapat merusak hubungan dan tata nilai dalam masyarakat.*

**Kata Kunci:** *Konflik sosial, pemilihan umum, sosiologi hukum Islam*

## Introduction

Conflict in society is very prone to occur, especially when entering the momentum of general elections.<sup>1</sup> Many conflicts in society occur due to fanaticism towards choices and the discrediting of opposing supporters. Differences of opinion and cornering opponents can occur from simple things such as discussions when meeting in person or via social media.<sup>2</sup> Community conflicts also often occur through physical clashes such as what happened in Sleman, Yogyakarta, where one person was killed and another injured after being

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<sup>1</sup> Jürgen Maier and Alessandro Nai, "When Conflict Fuels Negativity: A Large-Scale Comparative Investigation of the Contextual Drivers of Negative Campaigning in Elections Worldwide," *Leadership Quarterly* 33, no. 2 (2022). Mohammad Zulfan Tadjoeddin, "Electoral Conflict and the Maturity of Local Democracy in Indonesia: Testing the Modernisation Hypothesis," *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* 17, No. 3 (2012), p. 476-497.

<sup>2</sup> Tirto.id, "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)". Jafar Ahmad, et.al., "Models and Political Attitudes of Fundamentalist Groups in Indonesian Presidential Elections," *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun* 11, No. 2 (2023).

stoned by residents during a campaign convoy for a presidential candidate.<sup>3</sup> The incident indicates that community conflicts during the general election season are still very vulnerable.

Conflicts in general elections are prone to occur due to the unavoidable interests of political parties, leadership candidates, campaign teams, and their supporters. Each party seeks to win the candidate leader by winning the sympathy and support of the voters through various means. Finding fault, fanaticism of support, and differences in perceptions of prospective leaders become a familiar habit in society, but this can occur in a prolonged manner and even until the end of the general election, fanaticism of support continues to occur.<sup>4</sup> This indicates that negative campaigns from each camp are still the way to go and will have an impact on the division of society.<sup>5</sup> Finally, the issue of political violence and negative campaigning will lead to political instability.<sup>6</sup>

Conflicts between supporters of prospective national leaders can lead to the destruction of the unity of society, so it is urgent to resolve them. That conflict is very dangerous because it prioritizes strong emotions and even worse if the conflict leads to physical violence. One of the appropriate efforts is through a religious approach based on the sociology of Islamic law. This is one of the important efforts that need to be done by all levels of society.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, Indonesian society is predominantly Muslim and the cultivation of religious values in society is very important to influence people's behavior in politics.

Studies related to conflict in the momentum of the current general election are still limited to social studies and norms. Terms of social divisions that occur among supporters of prospective leaders can occur due to negative campaigns as research conducted by Martin and Nai.<sup>8</sup> A similar study by Daxecker and Rauschenbach discusses election violence as a form of negative campaigning.<sup>9</sup> McDevitt and Hopp's study is more concentrated on youth conflict

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<sup>3</sup> Kompas.tv, "Pendukung Capres Aniaya Warga Hingga Tewas di Sleman (Supporters of Presidential Candidates Beat Residents to Death in Sleman)".

<sup>4</sup> Armin, "Konflik Kepentingan Capres-Cawapres (Conflict of Interest between Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates)", *harian.fajar.co.id*, 2024

<sup>5</sup> Danielle Martin and Alessandro Nai, "Deepening the Rift: Negative Campaigning Fosters Affective Polarization in Multiparty Elections," *Electoral Studies*, 87 (2024), p. 1–10.

<sup>6</sup> Natascha Mueller-Hirth, et.al., "Women's Gendered Experiences of Political Instability: Kibera during the 2017 Kenyan Elections," *Women's Studies International Forum* 96 (2023).

<sup>7</sup> Dedi Sumanto, "Konflik Sosial Masyarakat Dalam Perspektif Sosiologi Hukum Islam," *Volkgeist: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Dan Konstitusi* 3, no. 1 (2020), p. 83–97.

<sup>8</sup> Martin and Nai, "Deepening the Rift: Negative Campaigning Fosters Affective Polarization in Multiparty Elections."

<sup>9</sup> Ursula Daxecker and Mascha Rauschenbach, "Election Type and the Logic of Pre-Election Violence: Evidence from Zimbabwe," *Electoral Studies* 82 (2023).

in politics in the United States.<sup>10</sup> On the aspect of norms, Bjorvatn et al. focus their attention on elections that can erode altruistic norms, causing people to behave selfishly and fanatically.<sup>11</sup> It's just that research related to community conflicts at the momentum of general elections from the perspective of the sociology of Islamic law is still very rarely done. In fact, involving religion in responding to community conflicts is done as a form of upholding religious values in life. So this study comes to fill the void by offering the concept of the sociology of Islamic law in preventing community conflicts in terms of politics.

This study aims to analyse the vulnerability of community conflict in the momentum of general elections from the perspective of the sociology of Islamic law. There are at least three central discussions that are interesting to be studied further, namely (1) the forms of social conflict at the momentum of the general election, (2) the causes of social conflict vulnerability in the general election, and (3) the perspective of the sociology of Islamic law on social conflict at the momentum of the general election. The resulting studies contribute to the prevention of community conflict at the momentum of general elections through the actualization of the values of Islamic legal sociology. This research provides an important idea that the implementation of Islamic law in political behaviour will save society from conflict and division due to differences in support.

This research was conducted by collecting data sourced from online media. The approach used is the sociological approach of Islamic law as a constructive step in responding to the vulnerability of community conflict at the momentum of the general election. The data in this study consisted of primary data collected through online news searches related to community conflicts in general elections and secondary data sourced from literature studies. The primary data collected came from 10 online news platforms including Lemhannas.go.id, Tirto.id, Ngopibareng.id, Harianjogja.com, BBC.com, Harian.disway.id, Kompas.tv, VIVA.co.id, CNNIndonesia.com, Harian.fajar.co.id, among others. Secondary data was collected through literature by searching websites that provide article databases such as Science Direct Elsevier and Google Scholar. The keywords used are conflict in general elections and the sociology of Islamic law.

Data management is done by categorizing the materials collected based on the discussion so that they can be classified as forms of community conflict, the causes of conflict, and the application of sociological values of Islamic law to the vulnerability of community conflict at the momentum of general elections. Data analysis is carried out descriptively qualitatively, namely analyzing data that has been categorized in the form of summary and brief reflection. The results of

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<sup>10</sup> Michael McDevitt and Toby Hopp, "Democratic Youth in Counter-Attitudinal Election Climates: A Test of the Conflict-Seeking Hypothesis," *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* 70 (2020).

<sup>11</sup> Kjetil Bjorvatn et al., "Elections and Selfishness," *Electoral Studies* 69 (2021), p. 1-6.

the analysis are then abstracted densely as a statement of the findings relating to community conflict at the momentum of the general election in the study of the sociology of Islamic law.

### **Forms of Social Conflict at the Momentum of General Elections**

The forms of conflict at the momentum of the general election found in the community are divided into two, namely conflict of argumentation or cross-opinion and physical conflict.

#### **1. Argumentation Conflict**

Community conflict at the momentum of general elections, essentially often occurs in the form of argumentation. Argumentation conflict is very difficult to avoid when people who support a candidate leader, corner other candidates in front of their supporters. For example, giving a negative perception of a candidate leader who is not supported, then his supporters hear and are immediately offended so that there are mutual arguments or cross-arguments. Some of the findings of this research show that community conflict through mutual attacks on arguments to support prospective leaders is still unavoidable according to Armin quoted on the [harian.fajar.co.id](http://harian.fajar.co.id) page. Conflicts of interest among political actors, presidential and vice-presidential candidates, political party leaders, teams, and supporters are inevitable. Each party seeks to win the pair that is carried. They try to win the sympathy and support of voters in various ways. Some are looking for mistakes in candidate pairs, some are highlighting the advantages of candidate pairs, some are conducting surveys, and some are just utilizing survey results to see strengths and weaknesses. The disagreement between supporters of presidential and vice presidential pairs is not only limited to survey results but also to other aspects that differ between supporters of one pair and another, such as differences in opinion or perception. The disagreement boils down to a conflict of interest between supporters of the presidential and vice presidential pairs.<sup>12</sup>

Empirically, conflicts that start with differences in support lead to disagreement and backstabbing. The existence of critical comments can influence opposing supporters to intimidate anyone who comments negatively on their support. One story of a social media user who was intimidated because of his critical comments is presented below. Uwi, not her real name, still shakes her head when she remembers the 2019 elections. The 27-year-old woman is one of the people directly affected by the political polarization that occurred in the election at that time. Uwi said, at that time he often gave critical opinions on social media against one of the presidential and vice presidential candidates. Uwi then received intimidation from supporters of one of the candidate pairs, in the form of curses and threats in his social media private messages. What was shocking was that one

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<sup>12</sup> Armin, "Konflik Kepentingan Capres-Cawapres (Conflict of Interest between Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates)", *harian.fajar.co.id*, 2024

of his own relatives also cursed Uwi on social media".<sup>13</sup> Rio, not his real name, shared the impact of polarization that had shaken his family's peace. At that time, it was still during the 2019 Election where polarization and 'labels' or designations of certain supporters could be wildly pinned on others. "At that time, a neighbor not far from the house once called my parents '*cebong*', and then he was expelled from the neighborhood group". These epithets have triggered social segregation at the grassroots since the two candidates competed in the 2014 elections. Rio said that his parents did not even feel like fanatical supporters of either presidential candidate at that time. However, the insults were hurled only because they were triggered by casual political conversations between residents".<sup>14</sup>

Some of the conflicts over differences of opinion that have been explored provide important insights into how argumentative conflicts can have a major impact on fracturing community relationships. Even relationships with close people can be damaged by disagreements over choices. Such conflicts usually occur in terms of personal communication or small groups discussing with each other, but when opinions are crossed and put down, the conflict can be prolonged.

Conflicts in the form of opinion wars are also experienced during elections in other countries. As in the United States, misleading political advertisements can trigger incivility in expressing opinions in cyberspace, for example on YouTube. Political incivility online does not only occur in a moment but will be repeated and sustainable because of the algorithms and promotions on YouTube that can be accessed by everyone regardless of time. Although the momentum of the general election has ended, conflicts still occur because of the circulation of negative campaign videos on YouTube. The existence of negative comments in response to posts is the impact of the online campaign.<sup>15</sup>

Apart from YouTube, conflicts of argumentation can also be found on the Facebook platform through the circulation of fake news causing an uproar for Facebook users.<sup>16</sup> Finally, public trust in information on social media began to decrease, not to mention the differences in perception and response to campaigns voiced by prospective leaders.<sup>17</sup> Through this fact, it is concluded that conflicts between supporters of prospective leaders in society are very prone to occur on

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<sup>13</sup> Tirto.id "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)".

<sup>14</sup> Tirto.id "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)".

<sup>15</sup> Yingying Chen and Luping Wang, "Misleading Political Advertising Fuels Incivility Online: A Social Network Analysis of 2020 US Presidential Election Campaign Video Comments on YouTube," *Computers in Human Behavior* 131 (2022).

<sup>16</sup> Julia Stachofsky, et.al., "Measuring the Effect of Political Alignment, Platforms, and Fake News Consumption on Voter Concern for Election Processes," *Government Information Quarterly* 40, no. 3 (2023).

<sup>17</sup> Nathan Johnson, et.al., "Social Media Influence, Trust, and Conflict: An Interview Based Study of Leadership Perceptions," *Technology in Society* 68 (2022).

social media. Although the impact is not felt directly, it can take place continuously and seems to be a tradition. This certainly should not be allowed and there needs to be a solution so that the political maturity of the community can be built.

## 2. Physical Conflict

Conflicts between supporters of prospective leaders can occur physically by injuring each other and even bloodshed between supporters. This alarming incident has occurred in several places based on online news searches. An incident of clashes between supporters of presidential and vice-presidential candidates occurred at Simpang Tiga, Maguwoharjo, Sleman, Yogyakarta on Sunday, December 24, 2023. As a result of the clash, two people were injured after being beaten by a group of supporters of another candidate. The clash began when a group of supporters of one of the presidential candidates carried out a motorcycle convoy. Suddenly the convoy was pelted with stones by residents. Two of the injured victims of the clash had to be taken to hospital. After a few days, one of the victims was declared dead".<sup>18</sup>

Due to this incident, there were concerns and responses from related parties, especially the winning team of the presidential candidate who regretted the incident. The death of one person as a result of a clash between supporters of presidential candidates received the attention of a spokesman for one of the presidential candidates who regretted the brutal actions carried out by unscrupulous supporters of other couples, which eventually claimed lives. "I condole the casualties and condemn these acts of violence regardless of the motive for the clash," Reiza said when confirmed, Sunday, December 31, 2023. He said that competition in political contestation does not need to involve violence that leads to physical clashes. Such physical clashes are very dangerous and have the potential to provoke things that are not wanted by the public from both sides. Political contestation should be placed in a competition of ideas and ideas.<sup>19</sup>

Previously, a similar case had occurred during the momentum of the 2019 general election as quoted in the online news. For example, in 2018, in Sampang, Madura, East Java, there was a case of shooting using homemade weapons by one of the supporters of a presidential candidate due to political friction on social media. Not to mention, a dozen stories of quarrels between supporters of Prabowo and Jokowi at that time, which caused divisions and fights

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<sup>18</sup> Zainal Arifin, "Bentrokan Antar Pendukung Capres Terjadi di Sleman, Satu Orang Tewas (Clashes Between Supporters of Presidential Candidates Occur in Sleman, one person is killed)" *VIVA.co.id*, 2024

<sup>19</sup> Gunawan Sutanto, "Pendukung Capres Saling Bentrok, Jubir AMIN: Pemilu Ajang Adu Gagasan Bukan Bentrok Fisik (Supporters of Presidential Candidates Clash With Each Other, AMIN Spokesperson: Election is a Battle of Ideas, Not a Physical Clash)", *harian.disway.id*, 2024

within the family. In 2019 in Gorontalo, there was even a grave that had to be moved just because of different legislative candidate choices. However, what is still clearly remembered is that polarization was the cause of the tragedy that resulted in the loss of life due to massive protests over the results of the 2019 elections. The massive protests at several points in Jakarta, May 21-22, 2019, caused at least 8 deaths. This protest was allegedly due to the dissatisfaction of one of the supporting camps with the results of the 2019 Election vote count. A similar incident occurred in Pontianak at the same time and left one person dead. Until now, the state's responsibility for the two cases caused by political polarization is unclear".<sup>20</sup>

These events provide a clear picture that physical support conflicts are still very prone to occur.<sup>21</sup> The online news excerpts show that physical conflict is more prone to occur through group movements. Large crowds are difficult to control, especially if their emotions have peaked or are provoked by the masses of supporters of other candidates. According to Sumanto, conflict creates strong emotions, and worse, conflict can lead to physical violence.<sup>22</sup> Physical conflict between supporters of prospective leaders can cause damage, instability, disharmony, and insecurity and even cause casualties.<sup>23</sup> Daxecker and Rauschenbach reveal that election violence is often conceptualized as a form of coercive campaigning.<sup>24</sup> Coercion in campaigns is an important warning because coercive campaigns will provoke conflict between supporters.

Physical social conflicts can also start from conflicts on social media which, although only visible online, can open up space for conflicts and violence online called internet baging which has a greater impact.<sup>25</sup> Although people cannot physically attack each other on social media, conflicts can continue until people attack each other in the real world.<sup>26</sup> This is very important to note

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<sup>20</sup> Tirto.id "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)".

<sup>21</sup> Chandra Tri Antomo, "Antisipasi aksi massa kubu yang pro dan kontra datang di Kantor KPU di Jakarta (In anticipation of mass action from pro and con parties to come to the KPU office in Jakarta)". *Ngopibareng.id*, 2024

<sup>22</sup> Sumanto, "Konflik Sosial Masyarakat Dalam Perspektif Sosiologi Hukum Islam."

<sup>23</sup> Huzaini Huzaini, "Konflik Sosial Pendekatan Sosiologi Dan Antropologi Hukum Keluarga Islam (HKI)," *Al-Manhaj: Jurnal Hukum dan Pranata Sosial Islam* 4, no. 2 (2022), p. 669–678.

<sup>24</sup> Daxecker and Rauschenbach, "Election Type and the Logic of Pre-Election Violence: Evidence from Zimbabwe."

<sup>25</sup> Caitlin Elsaesser, et. al., "Small Becomes Big, Fast: Adolescent Perceptions of How Social Media Features Escalate Online Conflict to Offline Violence," *Children and Youth Services Review* 122 (2021).

<sup>26</sup> Erga Atad, et.al., "Diplomacy under Fire: Engagement with Governmental versus Non-Governmental Messages on Social Media During Armed Conflicts," *Government Information Quarterly* 40, no. 3 (2023). Haris Haris, et.al., "Pandangan Hukum Islam Terhadap Upaya



considering that currently campaigns are mostly carried out on social media. Of course, ethics in accessing social media in political momentum must be upheld by respecting differences of opinion and avoiding conflicts due to fanaticism of support.

### **Causes of Social Conflict Vulnerability in General Elections**

The vulnerability of social conflict in general elections occurs because it is caused by several things. Through online media searches, there are at least three causes of social conflict in general elections, including polarization or negative campaigns, fanaticism of support, and allegations of fraud in general elections.

#### **1. Polarization or Negative Campaigning**

Polarization or negative campaigning can occur through mass media that present unethical information. Nurlia Dian Paramita, the National Coordinator of the Voter Education Network for the People, explained the current political situation, which is prone to divisions in society. This is coupled with the role of the mass media, which tends to highlight political figures rather than the programs that will be brought. Conflicts can then arise again, because it was supported by the media whose information in our opinion is not balanced, in providing information it tends to then show something unethical. She also advised the public not to simply believe in information circulating on social media. The public is advised not to be reactive before objectively clarifying the truth of information on social media.<sup>27</sup>

The same thing was conveyed by Gufron Mabururi Executive Director of Imparsial who explained that political actors certainly have their important roles in influencing the state of the political world in society. Gufron observed the polarization triggered by political actors by maneuvering on the issue of identity politics, as in the previous general elections. This way of doing politics is dangerous and has the potential to make the issue of differences in social identity spark friction in society. The potential for conflict remains as long as political elites and the public are unable to address the ongoing political dynamics wisely and intelligently.<sup>28</sup>

Negative campaigns caused by the polarization of political elites can result in the division of society. Martin and Nai emphasized in their research

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Penanggulangan Konflik Dan Bentrok Fisik Di Indonesia,” *Mutawasith: Jurnal Hukum Islam* 5, no. 2 (2022), p. 111–121.

<sup>27</sup> Tirto.id "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)".

<sup>28</sup> Tirto.id "Potensi Polarisasi & Mencegah Konflik Pendukung di Pemilu 2024 (Potential for Polarization and Preventing Supporter Conflict in the 2024 Election)". Wahyudi Akmaliah and Ibnu Nadzir, “The ‘Elective Affinity’ of Islamic Populism, Mobilization and Social Media: A Case Study of Indonesian Politic Identity Within the Three Elections,” *Studia Islamika* 31, No. 1 (2024).

related to negative campaigns that encourage affective polarization in multiparty elections that result in divisions among voters. Affective polarization is more likely to occur in negative parties and affective polarization is higher in individuals whose parties attack or are attacked by other parties.<sup>29</sup>

Similarly, Maier and Nai investigated the contextual conditions under which election campaigns around the world are conducted in a "negative" manner, relying on attacks on political opponents. They found that countries where elections are held under majority or plurality rule tend to have higher levels of campaign negativity. Similarly, electoral competitiveness and the ideological diversity of competing actors tend to be associated with greater use of negative campaigning, as does the media's preference for sensationalism.<sup>30</sup> Some of these arguments show that negative campaigns describe unhealthy political conditions and have implications for conflicts for people who are indoctrinated by negative campaigns.

Social media as an open tool in the campaign also makes polarization or negative campaigns spread so quickly. The change in society's activities towards digitalization covers all aspects, including politics.<sup>31</sup> The wide access to social media makes it a low-cost campaign tool that has a positive impact.<sup>32</sup> However, it will have a negative impact if there are conflicts of supporters in it and result in community divisions.<sup>33</sup> Negative impacts such as the disintegration of the nation due to hate speech or abusive language that is widespread on social media. Hate speech or harsh words on social media can trigger conflict in the real world.<sup>34</sup> This is because social media users also maintain their dignity and self-esteem so they will be offended if they are demeaned or receive less favorable treatment.<sup>35</sup> Including responding to negative campaigns and differences of opinion that can irritate so that conflict between supporters of prospective leaders is difficult to avoid.

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<sup>29</sup> Martin and Nai, "Deepening the Rift: Negative Campaigning Fosters Affective Polarization in Multiparty Elections."

<sup>30</sup> Maier and Nai, "When Conflict Fuels Negativity. A Large-Scale Comparative Investigation of the Contextual Drivers of Negative Campaigning in Elections Worldwide."

<sup>31</sup> Johnson, Turnbull, and Reisslein, "Social Media Influence, Trust, and Conflict: An Interview Based Study of Leadership Perceptions."

<sup>32</sup> Fashuo Wang and Yue Li, "Social Media Use for Work During Non-Work Hours and Work Engagement: Effects of Work-Family Conflict and Public Service Motivation," *Government Information Quarterly* 40, no. 3 (2023).

<sup>33</sup> Yuan Sun, et al., "Dark Side of Enterprise Social Media Usage: A Literature Review from the Conflict-Based Perspective," *International Journal of Information Management*, 61 (2021).

<sup>34</sup> Muhammad Okky Ibrohim and Indra Budi, "Hate Speech and Abusive Language Detection in Indonesian Social Media: Progress and Challenges," *Heliyon*, 9 (2023), p. 1-16.

<sup>35</sup> Mengyun Wang, et.al., "Perceived Interparental Conflict and Problematic Social Media Use among Chinese Adolescents: The Mediating Roles of Self-Esteem and Maladaptive Cognition toward Social Network Sites," *Addictive Behaviors* 112 (2021).

## 2. Fanaticism of Support

Fanaticism in support can be an attitude that encourages social conflict. The strong desire to win the candidate of their choice sometimes ignores the value of democracy because it prioritizes egocentric attitudes. This happened in the case of reporting each other's candidates for violations in the debate held by the general election committee. One of the party administrators expressed his opinion to the online media that: This is considered a denial of democracy coupled with the phenomenon of reporting one presidential candidate to the Indonesian General Election Supervisory Board by supporters of other presidential candidates. According to him, the debate, which is one of the instruments of democracy, should be made to convey good things and ideas. However, supporters who did not accept that their presidential candidate was cornered reported one of the presidential candidates for alleged slander of land ownership. This is a denial of democracy.<sup>36</sup>

Fanaticism toward the elected leader is difficult to avoid because of the selfishness of supporters without disrespect for other supporters' dissent. Bjorvatn et al. who focus their attention on elections and selfishness, argue that elections can erode altruistic norms and cause people to behave more selfishly. The social fact of elections can influence social behavior in important and previously unknown ways.<sup>37</sup> This opinion provides an understanding of the importance of maintaining social values and togetherness in society without prioritizing selfishness because of being too fanatical about choices. For this reason, maturity in politics is a counter to the fanaticism of choice as an effort to maintain national unity.

## 3. Allegations of Cheating

Alleged fraud in general elections is one of the causes of conflict between supporters of prospective leaders in society. This is made clear through online news excerpts related to the issue of alleged fraud in the general election so that it can trigger friction in the community. The campaign has not yet begun, but the issue of alleged fraud in the general election has already surfaced. Several observers fear that this uproar could trigger tensions that lead to conflict in the community. On the ground, several people have begun to voice their protests over alleged fraud ahead of the election campaign. One party chairman said that allegations of electoral fraud had begun to emerge. This issue began to emerge in

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<sup>36</sup> Yosef Leon, "Pendukung Prabowo Laporkan Anies yang Singgung soal Tanah di Debat Capres, Begini Komentar Sekjen PDIP (Prabowo Supporters Report Anies Mentioning Land in Presidential Candidate Debate, Here's the PDIP Secretary General's Comment)", *harianjogja.com*, 2024

<sup>37</sup> Bjorvatn et al., "Elections and Selfishness."

the past few days after the party chairman warned of potential fraud in the 2024 election series.<sup>38</sup>

Cheating is an act that violates the law and ethics so anyone who cheats will be discredited in society. Including fraud in elections can provoke commotion and uproar because it violates values in society. Those who are accused of fraud do not always accept the accusations made and instead provide resistance to those who make the accusations. In the case of general elections, fraud is often found starting from the campaign period until the vote count is completed. The existence of allegations of fraud can cause conflict in society, especially if there is fanaticism towards support. Not only conflict of argument, but it can lead to physical conflict.

Allegations of fraud in elections are usually exaggerated after the vote count is completed. The losing party that does not accept its defeat considers that there was fraud that caused it to lose. Erlich et al. revealed that candidates who lose due to allegations of fraud will rely on the courts to resolve post-election disputes.<sup>39</sup> Meanwhile, Riza Noer Arfani speculates that the possibility of conflict will be greater if the presidential election is only in one round.<sup>40</sup> This is inseparable from the supporters' efforts to win their chosen candidate even through cheating. This accusation of cheating is the response of the losing party and the assessment that their opponent cheated. Of course, this cannot be allowed to happen and everyone definitely hopes for a safe and peaceful general election. For this reason, allegations of cheating and cornering each other must be avoided.

### **Sociological Perspective of Islamic Law on Social Conflict in the Moment of General Elections**

A strong desire to prevent community conflict in general election situations can be seen in the efforts of the government, institutions, society, and related parties. Public education regarding conflict prevention ahead of the general election was carried out by the Directorate of Defense, Security and Geography Studies of Lemhannas RI, which was carried out in South Sulawesi to conduct discussions, collect data, and conduct long-term research with the title "Social Conflict in Elections and its Prevention to Make the 2024 Election a Success". Lemhannas RI said that the situation at hand needs to be handled effectively because the potential political conflict that arises will affect the course of the general election.

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<sup>38</sup> BBC.com "Gaduh dugaan kecurangan pemilu, apakah berpotensi memicu ketegangan berujung konflik masyarakat? (Rumors about allegations of election fraud, do have the potential to trigger tensions leading to community conflict?)".

<sup>39</sup> Aaron Erlich, et.al., "Weaponizing Post-Election Court Challenges: Assessing Losers' Motivations," *Electoral Studies* 86 (2023).

<sup>40</sup> CNN Indonesia "Pakar Sebut Potensi Konflik Lebih Besar Jika Pilpres Satu Putaran (Experts Say the Potential for Conflict is Greater if the Presidential Election is One-Round)".

Lemhannas RI observes this situation which requires serious attention from government officials and seeks solutions to prevent horizontal conflict. For this reason, the Deputy for Studies at Lemhannas RI at the Directorate of Defense, Security and Geography Studies conducted a study through FGD to find solutions to prevent social conflict during the general election and make the general election a success. The results of the study are then compiled to be used as recommendations to the government and policy-based implementation.<sup>41</sup> At this momentum, the Deputy Governor of South Sulawesi said that: It is important to anticipate the potential for riots in the 2024 elections early on. If for some reason, conflict occurs in most areas, it will certainly be very difficult for the security forces to handle and will have a direct impact on the condition of social security and order and the success of holding the 2024 general election.<sup>42</sup>

Starting from this statement, preventing social conflict in general elections is not only carried out by the government and institutions. However, religion must play a role in preventing social conflict in general elections through the application of the sociological values of Islamic law. The sociological approach to law views law as a tool for creating order in society.<sup>43</sup> Law functions in society as a tool to prevent conflicts based on interests. Law is also a basis for resolving problems that occur based on policies and norms in society. In essence, law is intended as a regulator of relationships and behavior in society.<sup>44</sup> Meanwhile, religion, which is the main ideology for society, is considered capable of being the best solution in resolving conflicts. Islam is a religion that cools human life through a humanistic paradigm in resolving social conflicts that are connected to the law. Religion is an ideal position in mediating social conflicts that occur due to various causal factors because Islam is always present in every situation and condition in society. Therefore, the principles of Islam as a regulator of human life are used as a theory for resolving conflicts as a form of enforcing Islamic law.<sup>45</sup> For this reason, the sociological study of Islamic law in responding to social conflict in general elections has become a separate idea to instill religious values as a solution to social problems.

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<sup>41</sup> Lemhannas.go.id, “Potensi Konflik pada Pemilu 2024 Penting untuk Diantisipasi Sejak Dini (Potential Conflict in the 2024 Election is Important to Anticipate Early)”.

<sup>42</sup> Lemhannas.go.id, “Potensi Konflik pada Pemilu 2024 Penting untuk Diantisipasi Sejak Dini (Potential Conflict in the 2024 Election is Important to Anticipate Early)”.

<sup>43</sup> Fajri M. Kasim, et. al., “The Protection of Women and Children Post-Divorce in Sharia Courts in Aceh: A Sociological Perspective,” *Ahkam: Jurnal Ilmu Syariah* 22, no. 2 (2022).

<sup>44</sup> Salman Alfarisi and Muhammad Syaiful Hakim, “Hubungan Sosiologi Hukum Dan Masyarakat Sebagai Kontrol Sosial,” *Jurnal Rechten: Riset Hukum Dan Hak Asasi Manusia* 1, no. 2 (2022), p. 20–28. Khaidir Saleh, et.al., “Hukum Dan Masyarakat Dalam Perspektif Sosiologi Hukum,” *Datin Law Jurnal* 1, no. 2 (2020).

<sup>45</sup> Hayat Hayat, “Teori Konflik Dalam Perspektif Hukum Islam: Interkoneksi Islam Dan Sosial,” *HUNafa: Jurnal Studia Islamika* 10, no. 2 (2013).

Changes in social situations and conditions also have an impact on the need for effective law which can be used as a code of behavior in interactions. Therefore, Islamic law, which has a responsive character to changes and human needs, needs to answer the problems that occur in life.<sup>46</sup> The sociological conception of Islamic law becomes an Islamic response to resolving societal problems that occur, including social conflicts during general elections. To prevent the possibility of social conflict due to differences of opinion, fanaticism of choices, and negative campaigns, there are at least three important values that need to be instilled, namely upholding human rights, being moderate in dealing with differences maintaining the value of balance, and being gentle.

### 1. Upholding Human Rights

In the context of the sociology of Islamic law, human rights must be upheld as a form of providing freedom for everyone.<sup>47</sup> Including in determining the leader candidate you want to elect, no one should intervene. So actions such as negative campaigns and forcing choices are not justified in Islam and will only damage the order of values in society. In terms of politics, religion never justifies being forced to elect leaders, even unjust leaders. Because everyone will of course be responsible for their own actions.

Apart from the freedom to choose leaders, in the social order there is what is called freedom of opinion, including the freedom to argue in politics. Purnomo et al. believe that freedom of opinion from the perspective of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* is part of human rights, which can be categorized as protection for freedom of thought. However, what needs to be paid attention to is that when freedom of opinion is not controlled, it has the potential to become hate speech which can threaten the integrity of society.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, religion prohibits humans from exaggerating their actions, including exaggerating in expressing opinions. Even though it is part of human rights, what is more important than that is harmony in society.

### 2. Be Moderate

Religion is oriented towards achieving peace, tranquility, and harmony for its adherents, as well as respecting all the differences that exist in other people without any elements of coercion, through multiculturalism and will maintain the

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<sup>46</sup> Fikri Arif, "Fleksibilitas Hukum Islam Dalam Perubahan Sosial," *ASAS: Jurnal Hukum Ekonomi Syariah* 11, no. 2 (2019).

<sup>47</sup> Tamyiz Mukharrom and Supriyanto Abdi, "Harmonizing Islam and Human Rights Through the Reconstruction of Classical Islamic Tradition," *Samarah* 7, no. 1 (2023), p. 40–57.

<sup>48</sup> Agus Purnomo, et. al., "Characteristics of Hate Speech and Freedom of Expression in the Perspective of Maqāṣid Al-Sharī'ah," *Juris: Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah* 22, no. 1 (2023). Mursyid Djawas, et.al., "Harmonization of State, Custom, and Islamic Law in Aceh: Perspective of Legal Pluralism," *Hasanuddin Law Review* 10, No. 1 (2024).

unity, and integrity of the nation.<sup>49</sup> Being moderate must be applied in all things, including in political matters. Differences in opinion and choice of potential leaders should be responded to moderately. Different opinions and choices are normal, but not being wise in responding to differences is something that must be avoided. This is intended so that backbiting, *namimah*, intimidation, and hate speech are not allowed to occur.<sup>50</sup> A moderate attitude is a form of maturity in thinking and acting, including in politics, which will prevent society from conflict due to differences in opinions and choices.

### 3. Maintaining Balance Values and Being Gentle

Efforts to prevent social conflict during general elections at least apply several social values of Islamic law which must be applied to be wise in responding to differences in choices, namely the value of balance in society and acting gently. In terms of the value of balance, Allah created the earth and its contents in full balance, no creation is in vain (QS ali-‘Imrān/3: 191). Meanwhile, in terms of behaviour, humans are commanded to be gentle towards others as in the QS ali-‘Imrān/3: 159. This kind of behaviour must certainly be applied in politics so that a humanist approach to society can be developed. Acting gently will also save the image of politics which is currently considered cruel, unfair, and full of fraud. For this reason, Islamic social values need to be presented by all parties so that peaceful general elections can be held.

The sociological approach to Islamic law can also be strengthened by traditional and cultural values in society to anticipate social conflict. Kasim and Nurdin in their study revealed that conflicts can also be resolved using customary law procedures that are in line with Islamic law through the concept of *'urf*. Conflicts that are resolved through customary law have their own advantages from the social aspect because they always maintain fraternal relations and are based on deliberation in realizing peace.<sup>51</sup> Harmonization between Islamic law and custom provides an important understanding that religious values and customs must be maintained in an effort to maintain unity.

The sociological conception of Islamic law is a response to the vulnerability of social conflict that occurred during the general election. This study makes a direct contribution to the development of Islamic law studies in Indonesia and the world in seeking the best solutions to achieve a humanist

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<sup>49</sup> A Basirun and K Kurniati, “Konflik Dan Ketegangan Antara Kesatuan Dan Keragaman Masyarakat Perspektif Hukum Islam,” *Al-Mizan: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Dan Ekonomi* 8, no. 2 (2022), p. 117–128.

<sup>50</sup> Muhammad Shuhufi, et al., “Islamic Law and Social Media: Analyzing the Fatwa of Indonesian Ulama Council Regarding Interaction on Digital Platforms,” *Samarah* 6, no. 2 (2022).

<sup>51</sup> Kasim and Nurdin, “Study of Sociological Law on Conflict Resolution through Adat in Aceh Community According to Islamic Law.”. Ridwan Nurdin, et.al., “The Role of Customary Leaders as Hakam in Resolving Divorce: A Case Study in Kuta Alam Subdistrict, Banda Aceh City,” *El-Usrah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga* 6, No. 2 (2023).

society.<sup>52</sup> Thus, the attitude of upholding human rights, moderating differences maintaining the value of balance, and being gentle is the sociological response of Islamic law in preventing social conflict.

## Conclusion

Social conflict during general elections can take the form of argumentative conflict and physical conflict. Argumentative conflict has an impact on the destruction of social relations and disharmony, while physical conflict can cause victims. There are at least three causes of conflict in general elections, namely polarization or negative campaigning, choice fanaticism and allegations of election fraud. The phenomenon of conflict in general elections shows the unhealthy political situation at the moment so it is urgent to respond from a sociological perspective of Islamic law. Social conflict can be prevented by upholding human rights, being moderate in dealing with differences maintaining the value of balance, and being gentle. The sociological approach to Islamic law is a response to social conflict by instilling religious values. This research contributes to preventing social conflict during general elections by prioritizing sociological aspects of Islamic law. Religious values are believed to mature society in terms of politics and prioritize harmony over an egocentric nature. For this reason, the government needs to pay attention to the community so that general election conflicts do not occur. Support from religious figures and ulama is also very necessary through counselling and issuing fatwas prohibiting conflict in general elections. Apart from that, the media that report it also needs to provide education to the public regarding the dangers of conflict during election momentum so that people are not easily provoked and involved in conflict. Recommendations for further research regarding the implementation of the sociological approach to Islamic law in preventing social conflict are very necessary to measure the effectiveness of Islamic values in people's lives.

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<sup>52</sup> I pandang and Syamsul Darlis, "Passampo Siri' in the Bugis Marriage Practices in East Kolaka, Indonesia: A Sociological Perspective of Islamic Law," *Samarah* 6, no. 2 (2022).



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