

PROFILE



Dr. Ahmad Syafii Maarif is the former Chairman of Muhammadiyah (1999-2004) and a leading public figure and intellectual in Indonesia today. Born in West Sumatera in 1935, he received his education in law and history and was awarded his MA in History from Ohio University (1980) and a doctoral degree in Islamic Studies from Chicago University (1982), under the supervision of the late Prof. Fazlur Rahman. His thesis, "Islam as the Basis of State: A Study of the Islamic Political Ideas as Reflected in the Constituent Assembly Debates in Indonesia," is an important documentation of Muslim political thought in modern-day Indonesia.

Buya Syafii, as he is affectionately known, also lectures at the postgraduate program of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta. He has been instrumental in seeding new forms of intellectualism within Muhammadiyah circles, particularly among young activists. Assuming leadership in the turbulent era of post-Soeharto Indonesia, his greatest achievement is in steering the 30-million strong Muslim organisation of Muhammadiyah away from the post-New Order radicalism and charting a progressive path for Muhammadiyah today. His relentless effort in promoting peace, tolerance and pluralism in Indonesian society earned him the Magsaysay Award for Peace and International Relations in 2008.

In 2003, he established the Maarif Institute for Culture and Humanity, a foundation that seeks to promote reform and social justice. He has also been a regular contributor to Indonesian dailies and magazines such as *Gatra*, *Kompas*, *Panji Masyarakat*, *Suara Muhammadiyah* and *Kedaulatan Rakyat*. Among his numerous publications are *Ibnu Khaldun dalam Pandangan Penulis Barat dan Timur* (1996), *Islam dan Politik: Teori Belah Bambu, Masa Depan Demokrasi Terpimpin, 1959-1965* (1996), *Islam dan Maalah Kenegaraan: Studi tentang Percaturan dan Konstituante* (1996), *Islam: Kekuatan Doktrin dan Kegamangan Umat* (1996), *Islam dan Politik: Upaya Membingkai Peradaban* (1999), *Masa Depan Bangsa dalam Taruhan* (2000), *Independensi Muhammadiyah di Tengah Pergumulan Pemikiran Islam dan Politik* (2000), *Mencari Autentisitas daam Kegalaun* (2004), *Islam dan Pancasila Sebagai Dasar Negara: Studi tentang Perdebatan dalam Konstituente*. (2006), *Otobiografi Ahmad Syafii Maarif: Titik-Titik Kisar di Perjalananku* (2006) and *Meluruskan Makna Jihad: Cerdas Beragama, Ikhlas Beramal*.
