



**REMARKS OF THE RECTOR  
ON THE PUBLIC LECTURE “SEPARATION OF POWERS IN THE UNITED STATES:  
WHO HOLDS THE TRUMP CARD” BY PROF. JOHN VAN DOREN  
YOGYAKARTA, 17 APRIL 2017**

The Honorable:

- Prof. John Van Doren, Professor of Law Emeritus at Florida State University (FSU) Law School,
- Deans, faculty members, and lecturers of UII
- Students,
- Distinguished guests, participants of the public lecture, ladies, and gentlemen.

***Assalamu'alaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,***

On this special occasion, let us offer our praise and gratitude to Allah SWT for it is with His mercy and blessing that we can gather in this occasion to attend the Public Lecture, “Separation of Powers in the United States: Who Holds the Trump Card” by Prof. John Van Doren.

First of all, on behalf of our university, I am honored and pleased to have your visit today. I also would like to extend my warm welcome to our speaker today, **Prof. John Van Doren**, Professor of Law Emeritus at Florida State University (FSU) Law School. On behalf of our university, I am honored and very pleased to have your visit today. Welcome to the city of Yogyakarta and especially to our university, Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII). UII is the oldest national university in Indonesia and one of the leading Islamic universities in the country which established by this nation prominent Islamic figures.

***Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,***

For as long as we know, power is one of most interesting topics which discussed by intellectual throughout history. Who holds the power and how it could be maintained are example of few questions which draw long discussion. But the most essential question lies on how the power could be distributed and separated among the actors of politics? This question emerged because since ancient time, power is

usually wielded by individual or very few actors of politic, such as king, emperor, monarchs, or sultan. Here we know concept of absolute power. History has tested that the power which concentrated on single individual or few elites is prone to abuse and corruption from time to time. As a popular quote from English statesman said: *power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely.*

Therefore, the concept of separation of powers is exist to address the issue. United States of America and Indonesia is among the countries who embrace this concept in the national constitution. For Indonesia, our founding fathers has implemented the concept in the state constitution, Undang-Undang Dasar 1945.

Today, the US long standing believes in this concept is again discussed during President Donald Trump's administration. Surely, it will be a pleasure to us to hear wide insight from Prof. John Van Doren on this issue. Since, Indonesia and USA is close partner in various field of partnership, and therefore, the distribution of power in the US may play an important role in the partnership.

***Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,***

The public lecture that we hold today has relevance to address various issues on separation of powers in USA politics, especially during early years of Donald Trump's administration. Through this lecture, I do hope that UII's student could gain important knowledge from the speaker related to this topic.

Once again, I would like to extend warm welcome and thank you to Prof. John Van Doren. I do hope that this event will become a good entry point to better understand the politics of the United States as well as its implication toward the law and international relations. May Allah grant His blessing in our every step.

***Wasalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,***

Yogyakarta, 17 April 2017

Rector,

Nandang Sutrisno S.H. M.H. LL.M. Ph.D