



## **FOX NEWS: *The Hannity and Colmes Show* (11/20/06)**

**COLMES:** President Bush's unpopularity in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, made for intense security measures and angry, anti-American protesters today as the president intends to court the favor of this country, seen as an ally in the war on terror. Joining us now, the president of Terror Free Tomorrow, Ken Ballen. Ken, let me go to you. Doesn't this show that what we need is diplomatic, not military solutions in situations where we risk incurring the wrath of the Muslim world?

**KEN BALLEEN, TERROR FREE TOMORROW:** Well, we need diplomatic solutions. What we really need is the kind of humanitarian policies, in fact, that we've had with Indonesia. Do you know that 60 percent of Indonesians are still favorable to the United States because of the tsunami assistance we gave that country?

**COLMES:** Yes.

**BALLEEN:** The demonstrators don't reflect that reality. A few hundred people on the street do not reflect what's really going on in Indonesia. We just did a poll last month. It shows most Indonesians are favorable to the United States for the kind of humanitarian policies that we have pursued in their country.

**COLMES:** Do you deny, though, that there is anti-American -- there is some enmity among Muslims because of our incursion into the Muslim world?

**BALLEEN:** Well, I don't deny there's enmity among Muslims. The important thing is that the Muslim world is not monolithic. We need to have policies in each country in the Muslim world that successfully engages and responds to the people in those countries in ways that they want.

Indonesia is the most populous Muslim nation. The kind of humanitarian policies we've pursued there have been largely popular in that country. You may not know this, but the United States Navy just sent its hospital ship *Mercy* to Indonesia. Some 61,000 people in Indonesia and elsewhere were seen and helped by the medical personnel of that ship. And Terror Free Tomorrow recently did a poll in Indonesia. The result:

The US Navy ship was popular among 85 percent of Indonesians we surveyed. That's an astonishing number. And when we asked what the people want the United States to do in the future, first they want educational scholarships. And second they want the US Navy hospital ship *Mercy* to return to their shores.

The Palestinian issue came in last, among future American priorities the people of Indonesia actually asked for. I'm not saying the US shouldn't take a leadership role in Middle East peace. What I am saying is that we can't treat the Muslim world like a

monolith. We have to have the kind of policies coming from the United States that respond to the people themselves in each country of the Muslim world.

When I read the headlines that say Indonesia is anti-American, because there's a few hundred demonstrators, we need to look at what the voice of the people really is. And we can only do that through scientifically valid public opinion polls, like Terror Free Tomorrow has undertaken.

**HANNITY:** Ken, I want to get back to this issue of people being paid to protest. And who's paying them, and how much are they paying them, and to what extent is this all staged for the world to see.

**BALLEN:** Well, there's been a history of that. It's even more astonishing though, Sean, that there's a headline in the European newspapers that says "Storm of Protest Greets Bush in Indonesia. People brave monsoons and rains to protest," and hundreds of people actually show up. Hundreds in a country of 240 million? It's silly.

And that's what's reported and amplified by the international media; it doesn't give you a fair picture of what's going on.

**HANNITY:** I guess, Ken, I guess what the world wants to know when they see these images, how many people are buying into the radicalized version of Islam? You know, does one walk away with the impression that there's a lot of anti-American sentiment? Is it legitimate, the radical sentiment? Is it widespread? Is it a small minority?

**BALLEN:** It's a very small minority in Indonesia. In our polls we see less than 2 percent of the people supporting this kind of radicalism. It's dropped dramatically, in part we found as a direct result of American aid after the devastating tsunami.

In fact, after our tsunami relief, support for bin Laden went from 58 percent down to 12 percent now in large part because of the assistance, because people in Indonesia got to see Americans helping in a direct way. Not just anti-American images.

**HANNITY:** Why do I have a problem with the idea that America has to buy its love with American tax dollars? I'm not saying it's not the right thing to do. It's just...

**BALLEN:** But it's not that at all, Sean. It's not that that the United States is "buying" anyone. It's that people in Indonesia and other Muslim countries are accustomed to hearing a distorted image of the United States; many are hearing preaching that presents the United States in a distorted light. With direct humanitarian missions, such as the *Mercy* and tsunami relief, suddenly Indonesians are afforded the opportunity of direct experiences with Americans, where people are engaged in helping, person-to-person, in a respectful way.

Then Indonesians experience a new reality of Americans and the result is overwhelming: it changes people's opinions of the United States for the good of everyone.

**COLMES:** We thank you, Ken. We thank you once again for being with us.

**BALLEN:** Thank you.