

Impunity

The Act of Living: A Photo Exhibition of Women Survivors of Indonesia's Violence in 1965

Ajar website, October 2015

The work to unravel the legacy of violence is long-term and complex, and Indonesia still refuses to officially acknowledge its bloody past. Plans for a truth and reconciliation commission, discussed in the early days after the fall of General Soeharto in 1998, have been all but abandoned. However, since reformation, survivors of 1965 have taken an active role in speaking out about the violations they experienced, and demanding justice and acknowledgement. Survivors pushed for an inquiry by Indonesia's national human rights commission, which was completed in 2012 and concluded crimes against humanity had been committed. A civil-society led truth-seeking process organized public hearings, data gathering, and the launch of a final report, "Reclaiming Indonesia." Recently, there has been an increase in incidences of elderly survivors who have gathered to support each other being attacked by so-called anti-communist groups.



"The '65 tragedy made us lose our parents, my older brother, and there were a lot of disappearances without any trial or evidence [showing] they had betrayed the state or nation. I want to testify so that people know the truth about the events we experienced. My younger siblings are scared and think the matter is finished because they have prayed and surrendered to God. I say to them, "With God of

course it is finished, but people do not yet know the truth." I must set things straight by sharing my story so they don't write a false history about us . . . My task is to tell the truth so that this bitter history will not be repeated."

This photo exhibition is a result of a participatory research, which involved female survivors of the 1965 crimes against humanity. A total of 26 women and children of political prisoners of 1965 participated. Many women survivors from 1965 shared their stories of violence and discrimination. This is not a new finding, and confirms existing research about forms of gender-based violence experienced by women. What have been most interesting are the after life struggles and triumphs of these women survivors. One of the approaches of this research is the photo taking and storytelling. The portraits and stories are presented in this exhibition.

See also: <http://asia-ajar.org/the-act-of-living-a-photo-exhibition-of-women-survivors-of-indonesias-violence-in-1965/>

The International Peoples Tribunal: Who does what?

The Tribunal's Judges

SIR GEOFFREY NICE

Professor Sir Geoffrey Nice QC has practised as a barrister since 1971. He worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia - the ICTY - between 1998 and 2006 and led the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević, former President of Serbia. Much of his work since has been connected to cases before the permanent International Criminal Court - Sudan, Kenya, Libya - or pro bono for victims groups - Iran, Burma, North Korea - whose cases cannot get to any international court. He works for several related NGO's and lectures and commentates in the media in various countries on international war crimes issues. He has been a part-time judge since 1984 sitting at the Old Bailey and has sat as judge in other jurisdictions, tribunals and inquiries. Between 2009 and 2012 he was Vice-Chair of the Bar Standards Board, the body that regulates barristers. He is Gresham Professor of Law 2012- 2016

HELEN JARVIS

Helen Jarvis studied political science and Indonesian language and literature at the Australian National University in the late 1960s. She first visited Indonesia in late 1965 and

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worked in Jakarta during 1969 as a freelance translator for EKUIN, Taman Ismail Marzuki and the Indonesian Times. At that time she translated Usamah's short story "Perang dan Kemanusiaan" into English published as "War and Humanity" in Cornell University's journal Indonesia. She went on to translate Tan Malaka's autobiography "Dari Penjara ke Penjara" (From Jail to Jail), which formed the basis of her PhD from the University of Sydney, where she worked on a bibliographic database on Southeast Asia for 12 years in the Department of Indonesian & Malayan Studies. She then moved to the University of New South Wales, later becoming head of the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies.

Since the mid-1990s, Helen has worked on issues relating to crimes against humanity and genocide, mainly focusing on Cambodia, with Yale University's Cambodian Genocide Program; the Cambodian Government Task Force for the Khmer Rouge Trials; and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) as Chief of Public Affairs and then Chief of the Victims' Support Section before retiring in 2010.

Helen is a Vice-President of the Permanent People's Tribunal and a member of the International Advisory Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World program and of the Advisory Board of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Justice in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Her recent publications include Getting away with genocide? Elusive justice and the Khmer Rouge Trials (co-author with Tom Fawthrop); the Cambodia section of ABC-Clio's Modern Genocides online database; the Cambodia volume in ABC-Clio's World Bibliographical Series; "Mapping Cambodia's "killing fields", Chapter 14 of Materiel Culture: the archaeology of 20th century conflict; "Justice for the deceased": victims' participation in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia," Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal 8:2 (2014); and "Powerful remains: the continuing presence of victims of the Khmer Rouge regime in today's Cambodia", Human Remains and Violence, 1:2 (2015). She holds both Australian and Cambodian nationality and is currently living in Phnom Penh.

MIREILLE FANON MENDES FRANCE

Currently, she is UN expert, chair of the Working Group for people of African descent, President of the Frantz Fanon Foundation. She has worked as legal adviser at the French National Assembly; Former professor of general didactics and literature; has worked at the

UNESCO Press. As judge, she has participated in many people's tribunals of the Permanent People's Tribunal based in Rome, Italy.

JOHN GITTINGS

John Gittings is a writer and journalist who has specialised in modern Chinese and Asian history and in peace studies. He worked for many years for The Guardian (London) as East Asia Editor and Foreign Leader-writer, and covered major events in China for them from the 1970s onwards. More recently, he helped to edit the Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace (2010) and has published a study of peace thinking from ancient times till today (The Glorious Art of Peace, OUP, 2012). He carried out research for The Guardian into the events of 1965-66 in Indonesia, on the 25th anniversary in 1990, and he reported from Jakarta during the East Timor crisis in 1999.

He was educated at Midhurst Grammar School and at Oxford University where he gained a first-class degree in 1961 in Oriental Studies. He wrote his first book on China at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (The Role of the Chinese Army, OUP, 1966). He later worked in Chile and Hong Kong, and taught Chinese politics at the Polytechnic of Central London (now the University of Westminster). In 1984 he published, with Noam Chomsky and Jonathan Steele, a study of the politics of the cold war (Superpowers in Collision, Penguin Books).

John Gittings now lives near Oxford where he moved to with his late wife Aelfthryth after leaving The Guardian in 2003. Together they brought up four sons who now live in England, Ireland, Singapore and Hong Kong. He is a Research Associate of the China Institute at London University (SOAS) and continues to lecture and write mainly on peace philosophy and history, recently focusing on aspects of the first world war.

His writings include "The Indonesian Massacres, 1965-1966: Image and Reality", in Mark Levene & Penny Roberts, ed., The Massacre in History (New York: Berghahn, 1999). His website is www.johngittings.com and he has a peace studies page at <https://www.facebook.com/gittingsPeace>.

SHADI SADR

Shadi Sadr is an Iranian human rights lawyer who studied Master of International Law at the University of Tehran. She has been arrested, beaten and imprisoned in Iran. In July 2009 she was arrested once again and then released, which allowed her to escape to

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Europe. On May 17, 2010, Ms. Sadr was convicted in absentia in a Tehran Revolutionary court of “acting against national security and harming public order” and was sentenced to six years in prison with 74 lashes.

Shadi Sadr is the founder and director of Raahi, a legal centre for women. Raahi was closed down by the Iranian authorities in 2007 in a wave of repression against civil society. Ms. Sadr has touched the lives of hundreds of individuals through her work and her support for campaigns such as the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign. She has received several award such as Human Rights Tulip and Alexander Prize of Law School of Santa Clara University.

In 2010 Shadi Sadr established a new organisation Justice for Iran (JFI) which aims to address and eradicate the practice of impunity that empowers officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to perpetrate widespread human right violations against their citizens, and to hold them accountable for their actions. As the Executive Director of Justice for Iran (JFI), she has overseen the creation and implementation of several research projects on gross violations of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTs, women, and those who are persecuted because of their political beliefs. She is the co-author of Crime and Impunity: Sexual Torture of Women in Islamic Republic Prisons.

CEES FLINTERMAN

Cees Flinterman is honorary professor of human rights at Utrecht University and Maastricht University since November 2007. Before that he was inter alia professor of human rights and director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), Utrecht University, and Director of the Netherlands School of Human Rights Research (1998-2007), professor of constitutional and International law at Maastricht University (1982-1998) and Dean of the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University (1984-1986).earlier he worked at Leiden University, the University of Ghana, the Ghana Law Reform Commission and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2011-2014 Cees Flinterman was a member (and rapporteur) of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (2011-2014). Before that he was inter alia an alternate member of the UN Sub-Commission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities from 1986-1991. He was the chair of the Netherlands delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights from 1993-1994 and Vice-Chairperson of the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1993). From 1996 – 1999 he was a

member of the Netherlands delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. He served as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) from 2003 – 2010. He has also been a member of the board of a number of national and inter non-governmental organizations, such the International Service for Human Rights, the Centre for Housing Rights and Evictions the People’s Decade for Human Rights Education, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, and the Netherlands section of the International Commission of Jurists (NJCM).

He is presently the chair of the foundation Human Rights in the Picture. His research interests relate to the United Nations system of human rights, human rights and foreign policy, public international law and (comparative) constitutional law, gender and human rights. His publications include: Flinterman, C. (associate ed.) & H.B. Schoepp-Schilling (ed.) The Circle of Empowerment. Twenty-five years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The Feminist Press (2007); Flinterman, C. & Van Genugten, W.J.M., eds., Niet-Statelijke Actoren en de Rechten van de Mens: Gevestigde Waarden, Nieuwe Wegen, (2003); Flinterman, C. & Baehr, P. and Senders, M. Innovation and Inspiration: Fifty Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1999).

ZAK YACOOB

Retired Justice Zak Yacoob has been blind from infancy and studied at the Arthur Blaxall school for Blind in Durban, South Africa.

He completed a law degree at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. While at University, and during practice, as an advocate from 1991 to 1998 Yacoob was a member of the underground of the African National congress and community organizations involved in anti-apartheid and community activities including the United Democratic Front.

Zak ran a significant and diverse commercial and general legal practice being also engaged in community activities, defense of political prisoners charged for defying unjust apartheid laws, and challenging, on behalf of victims, detentions without trial, house arrest and other restrictive decrees.

In service as judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa from 1998 to 2013, Yacoob become known nationally and internationally for his contribution to the socio-economic rights jurisprudence of South Africa.

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Judge Yacoob was member of: the committee that prepared the Bill of Rights in the 1993 Interim Constitution; the Independent Electoral Commission, that was responsible for S. Africa first democratic election in 1994; the Independent Panel of Experts that advised the Constitutional Assembly in preparing the 1996 final Constitution.

Zak also: advised local-government bodies, the National Land Committee and the Department of Finance on giving effect to and compliance with the final constitution; attended international conferences and workshops largely on human and socio-economic rights and on constitutionalism, human rights, disability and blindness; received the 2013 Felicia and Sydney Kentridge Award for Service to the Law in Southern Africa; was awarded two honorary doctorates in law; was a chancellor of the University of Durban - Westville; taught and teaches constitutional law at universities and Law Schools in America, India and S. Africa; continues to engage in voluntary activities both in and out of South Africa in the fields of judicial and legal education, socio-economic rights, disability rights and HIV and AIDS.

He has a particular interest in service delivery for the development and empowerment of blind and partially sighted, as well as deaf and hard of hearing persons. Yacoob has participated as one of the judges in the commission of enquiry held in London in March 2014 concerning the propriety of the conviction of the Cuban Five by the United States of America.

The Tribunal's Prosecutors

SILKE STUDZINSKY

From 2013 until 2015, Silke Studzinsky was the Legal Adviser to the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

From 2008 until 2012, Silke worked for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Cambodia as Civil Party Lawyer before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and as Senior Legal Advisor to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal programs of the Cambodian Human Rights Organization 'ADHOC' and 'Legal Aid of Cambodia'.

Since 1990, Silke has been working as a criminal defense lawyer and as a legal representative for civil parties before criminal courts. One of her main working areas is

fostering the rights of victims of sexualized violence, sexual abuse, trafficking and (racial) discrimination in and outside of courtrooms.

Silke organized and participated in several human rights missions, trial observations and delegations in Turkey, Spain, Greece, Israel, South Korea and Kashmir. She is admitted as counsel at the Berlin Bar (1990), at the International Criminal Court at The Hague (2006) and at the Cambodian Bar (2008). Silke completed her First and Second State Exams in law in Berlin, Germany.

There are other 6 prosecutors from Indonesia. Due to political reasons and security reasons their names can not yet be published.

The Tribunal's Registrar

SZILVIA CSEVÁR

Szilvia Csevár LL.M. is a Public International Law professional with extensive experience in international criminal law, humanitarian law and human rights standards. Currently involved with the International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) as a Legal Officer, being responsible for the management and supervision of ILWP's legal programme pertaining to systematic and widespread human rights abuses in the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua. She worked with the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone for several years as a Legal Researcher. Further, she is an active member of the Dutch Section of International Commission of Jurists, chairing the working group on international protection of human rights.

<http://1965tribunal.org/1965-tribunal-hearings-the-prosecutors/>, 30-10-2015

See for the indictment: <http://1965tribunal.org/indictment-1965-tribunal/>

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Freedom of Religion

CHRISTIAN MINORITY IN ACEH UNDER THREAT

Amnesty International Urgent Action, 28-10-2015

Local authorities in Aceh province have increased religious tensions by tearing down seven churches. A mob had already destroyed one church, leaving one person dead.

Religious tensions between Muslims and Christians in the Aceh Singkil region have been increasing, after the authorities tore down seven churches over the last two weeks.

The government decided on 12 October to close 10 churches, as demanded by members of a group calling themselves the Pemuda Peduli Islam (Youth who care about Islam) who had assembled outside the district head administrative office on 6 October. Some of the 10 churches were built decades ago, but the group said they violated local regulations and gave the local authorities until 13 October to shut them down.

Despite the government giving in to the demands of this group, on 13 October a mob of around 500 people burnt down a Protestant church in Suka Makmur village. They then moved onto another church in Danggaran village but were prevented from destroying it by the police and the military. One of the attackers was killed. The violence caused widespread panic among Christians in Aceh, and around 4,000 people fled to neighbouring North Sumatra province. Some have since returned. Although local police had known that the attack on the Protestant church was planned, they did not provide the church in Suka Makmur with adequate protection or take measure to prevent the attack.

Human rights groups have found regulations on establishing places of worship to be discriminatory against religious minorities, with requirements that are virtually impossible to follow. The decision to demolish the churches was a clear violation of the right of every person to practice his or her religion.

The closure of Christian churches in Aceh Singkil district began in 2012 when the local authorities sealed 19 churches and one native-faith house of worship following protests from the local chapter of the hardline Islamist group the Front Pembela Islam (Islamic Defenders Front, FPI). The FPI demanded the closure of the churches on the grounds that

they did not have a permit to establish places of worship in accordance with Joint Ministerial Decree No. 8 and No. 9/2006, even though all these churches had been established before the decree came into force. Some of the churches had been established as far back as the 1930s.

The Aceh Singkil district authorities also justified the closure of the churches on the basis of agreements between various religious groups in Aceh Singkil reached in 1979 and 2001. In 1979 it was decided that only one church and four smaller Christian places of worship were allowed to be established in Aceh Singkil.

However, according to local human rights groups, Christian minorities only agreed to this due to pressure from the security forces. While the majority of Aceh Singkil's population of around 110,706 are Muslim, an estimated 14,000 are Christians.

The Aceh provincial and Aceh Singkil local government have issued Governor Regulation No. 25/2007 and Qanun Aceh Singkil No. 2/2007 respectively concerning the Establishment of Places of Worship. The two local regulations restrict religious minorities from building their places of worship and contain stricter requirements than the national regulation concerning the establishment of places of worship (the Joint Ministerial Decree No. 8 and No. 9/2006). These regulations have been used by vigilante Islamic mass organization in Aceh Singkil to justify the closure of Christian churches with support from the local authorities.

Freedom of Expression

Indonesia: Stop silencing public discussions on 1965 violations

Amnesty International Public Statement, 30-010-2015

Amnesty International is concerned about continued attempts by the Indonesian authorities to silence public discussions, and disband events, related to serious human rights violations that occurred 50 years ago, the most recent at a writers festival in Bali. These actions are a clear restriction of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and must end immediately.

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In the wake of a failed coup attempt on 30 September 1965, the Indonesian military – led by Major General Suharto – launched an attack against members of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) and suspected sympathizers. Over the following two years, it is reported that between 500,000 and one million people were killed. An investigation by the Indonesian National Human Rights commission also found other human rights violations including torture, enforced disappearances, rape, sexual slavery and other crimes of sexual violence. Hundreds of thousands of people were imprisoned without trial – many spent years in jail. Victims still continue to face discrimination.

Although Indonesia has seen a marked increase in the space for freedom of speech and expression following the fall of Suharto in 1998, a culture of silence has prevailed in discussing the 1965 mass human rights violations.

This pattern of suppression continued last week when Indonesia authorities threatened to revoke the permit of the internationally acclaimed Ubud Writers and Readers Festival if any events concerning 1965 went ahead. This forced the organisers to cancel three panel sessions dedicated to the victims of 1965, a screening of Joshua Oppenheimer's Look of Silence, and an art exhibit and book launch for the Act of Living. This is the first time in the festival's 12 year history that the authorities have interfered with the festival.

This has not been an isolated incident. Earlier in October, police in Salatiga, Central Java confiscated and burnt hundreds of copies of Lentera magazine, run by the Satya Wacana University's Faculty of Social and Communication Studies in Salatiga, because it featured an in depth report and front cover to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the violence.

On 15 October, a survivor of the 1965 killings, now a Swedish citizen, was deported from Indonesia after being interrogated by police for almost 12 hours. He has reportedly been blacklisted from returning to the country after attempting to visit his fathers' grave, who had been killed during that time, in West Sumatra.

Private meetings or public events organized by victims about the 1965 events have often been disbanded by the authorities or broken up by vigilante groups with police doing nothing to prevent the harassment.

Victims and survivors of serious human rights abuses have a right to exercise their freedom of expression and discuss the past. In the absence of genuine measures by the government to date to establish the truth, Amnesty International believes that public

events and discussions on the 1965 violations such the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival Indonesia play an important role in providing such spaces. These events can help victims and their families understand what happened to them, counter misinformation and highlight factors – such as discrimination – that led to the abuses. Such spaces, allow societies to understand why abuses were committed so that they are not repeated.

In October 2014, President Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo entered office and committed to respecting and protecting human rights in Indonesia, including addressing past human rights abuses in the country. In May 2015, the government announced a non-judicial mechanism to resolve past human rights abuses, including 1965 violations. Victims and NGOs are concerned that this process may prioritize reconciliation and undermine truth and justice.

Amnesty International believes it is time that the Widodo administration face the past and take long overdue measures required to provide the 1965 victims with truth, justice and full reparation. President Widodo should make a public call to end to all forms of restrictions against public discussions on 1965 and ensure that the government starts listening to victims and others, instead of suppressing their voices.

Indonesian Lawmakers Question Frankfurt Book Fair Budget, Presence of 'Certain Groups'

The Jakarta Globe, 01-11-2015

Indonesian lawmakers want to know how exactly the government spent 10 million euro (\$11 million) in taxpayer money to be present at the Frankfurt Book Fair and why "certain groups" played such a prominent role at the event.

Teguh Juwarno, a member of Commission X at the House of Representatives, said on Sunday that lawmakers would ask Education Minister Anies Baswedan for an explanation after recess. He said his commission had received complaints from embassy staff and diplomats abroad about Indonesia's representation at the fair, where the country was guest of honor, and had been urged to question everybody involved.

The Frankfurt Book Fair, held Oct. 14-Oct. 18 this year, is the largest of its kind in the world.

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The National Mandate Party (PAN) politician added that neither the budget for the project, nor who would be involved in it, had ever been discussed with Commission X.

Goenawan Mohamad, the head of the Indonesian delegation's organizing commission, told Tempo.co previously that the budget had already been approved by Anies' predecessor, Muhammad Nuh. "There were complaints about the presence of certain groups," Teguh said, adding that these unspecified groups of people had managed to steer discussions at the book fair into a direction that the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry considered undesirable.

Presumably, Teguh was insinuating that there had been unease among Indonesian officials about the prominent role at the event of books dealing with the 1965 anti-communist purges -- such as Laksmi Pamuntjak's "The Question of Red" and Leila S. Chudori's "Going Home" -- while it was supposed to have been all about promoting Indonesia as "17,000 islands of imagination."

The massacres, which inaugurated Suharto's New Order regime, remain a highly sensitive topic at home, proven again in Bali in the past week, where organizers of the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival were forced to cancel screenings and discussions related to '1965.'

The move was criticized by Amnesty International as a violation of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Goenawan, a prominent Indonesian intellectual, is the founder and editor of Tempo magazine, which has written extensively on '1965' and its aftermath in recent years. The magazine was banned during the New Order.

Two British journalists await verdict

The Jakarta Post, 02-11-2015

Two British journalists are set to hear their verdict in Batam District Court in Riau Islands on Tuesday for allegedly filming a documentary on piracy in the Malacca Strait without proper documents. During their seventh hearing last Monday, presiding judge Wahyu Prasetyo said that the panel of judges needed one week to draft its decision for the case. Previously, prosecutors had demanded that the panel of judges sentence them to five

months in jail and order each of them to pay Rp 50 million (US\$3,667) in fines or, alternatively, serve an additional one month jail term.

Prosecutor Bani Ginting said the defendants, Neil Bonner, 31, and Becky Posser, 30, were proven to have violated Article 122 of the 2011 Immigration Law and Article 55 of the Criminal Code (KUHP) on collective crimes. "We aren't looking at whether they were undertaking journalistic [duties] or not; [the prosecution] is based on violations to their visas," said Bani last Monday. According to Bani, based on the permit request documents submitted by production house Wall to Wall Company, where the two defendants worked, the film production was scheduled to be conducted on June 15, but they had started working on May 28. "They realize that their activities in Batam had no permits granted and they both know that they were only in possession of seven-day visa-on-arrival for social visit and tourism purposes, not working," said Bani.

Prior to last week's trial, dozens of people who claimed to be journalists from weekly media in Batam held a demonstration in front of the court, a demonstration that was tightly controlled by the local police.

When questioned with regard to the protest, Batam Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) said they did not recognize the protesters but lawyer Aristo MA Pangaribuan approached the protesters to thank them for their support.

"We ask the judge to release these British citizens as the prosecutors were unable to prove their guilt during the trial. We also consider the amount of the proposed fines to be excessive, especially due to the fact that both of the defendants aren't currently working," said Aristo.

Death penalty

Limited use of death penalty in Draft Criminal Code

Kompas, 02-11-2015

The new Draft Criminal Code (RUU KUHP) will contain more limits to the use of the death penalty than the current one. The death penalty is considered as a last resort to protect society from very serious crimes, to be applied in a more careful and individual way. Also a

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period of conditional imprisonment of 10 years may be applied and if the convict does behave well, the sentence may be converted into life imprisonment or a 20 years' sentence. This was made clear during a closed expert meeting by Prof. Dr. Nyoman Serikat Putra Jaya from Semarang University who was involved in the drafting of the RUU KUHP.

Prof. Marcus Priyo Gunarto from University Gajah Mada thought this probation period of 10 years was sufficient for possible judicial errors to come to the surface. Prof. Eddy OS Hiariej, also from UGM was of the opinion that the death penalty is still necessary but should only be applied in cases of exceptional crimes, such as [in that order] corruption, terrorism, abuse of narcotics and serious human rights violations.

University lecturer Lucia Ratih Kusumadewi from Universitas Indonesia was opposed to the death penalty – also in this limited manner – considering it a human rights violation. She did not consider the proposed changes a sufficient improvement from the original position. She also said that the arguments used were mainly used for political reasons.

The rector of Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta, Sri Nurhartanto, also pronounced his opposition against the death penalty on the basis of human rights principles. He said that the right to life of every individual should be protected. He also referred to the growing global trend to abolish the death penalty.

Political developments

A new IPAC Report: Online activism and social media among Indonesian extremists

Social media usage among Indonesian ISIS supporters is not necessarily changing patterns of recruitment but it is ensuring that ISIS propaganda is reaching new audiences. The government will not be able to develop effective counter-measures unless it puts more resources into training skilled personnel to analyse the content of extremist communications.

Online Activism And Social Media Usage Among Indonesian Extremists, the latest report from the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), looks at how Indonesian extremists use Facebook, Twitter and various mobile phone applications like WhatsApp and

Telegram. It divides Indonesian extremism from 2002 to the present into four periods and looks at how each period has been characterised by new communications technologies.

“The one constant has been the reliance on face-to-face contact for radicalisation and recruitment and that continues today,” says Sidney Jones, IPAC director. “ISIS propaganda, disseminated by social media, can get individuals interested in the caliphate but with few exceptions, involvement in radical religious discussion groups seems to precede the actual decision to leave.”

Nevertheless, the propaganda seems to be having an impact, particularly the depictions of daily life in the Islamic State and the camaraderie of Indonesian fighters, smiling broadly with their new weapons or enjoying a dip in a hotel swimming pool after battle. More and more Indonesians have gone to Syria as families or even extended families, and in some cases, women have driven the departures. Indonesian government statistics on “foreign fighters” include women and children, who may constitute more than 40 per cent of the Indonesians with ISIS. They form an even bigger percentage of the deportees from Turkey.

The proliferation of ISIS propaganda via individual Twitter accounts has raised concerns about the possibility of “lone wolf” attacks, although the report points out that such attacks are extremely rare in Indonesia. Since 2002, there have been only two, which injured only the would-be attackers. Some members of extremist chat groups have tried to whip up enthusiasm for such attacks but so far without success. (...)

Thus far, Indonesian extremists have not been very creative in their use of the Internet. Despite exhortations to wage jihad through hacking, for example, there has only been only one major hacking success in Indonesia, an online embezzlement from a currency trading site, and that was almost five years ago. Perhaps the most interesting new use of smart phones has been marriage-by-video, uniting women in Indonesia or working abroad as domestics with Indonesian extremists in prison, in Syria or in radical groups. These marriages are used for a variety of purposes: to cement alliances, reinforce social hierarchies, satisfy the “biological needs” of prisoners, or bring women out to the Middle East for unmarried fighters.

Read the full report:

http://file.understandingconflict.org/file/2015/10/IPAC_24_Online_Activism_Social_Media.pdf