

## Freedom of Religion

### **Ahok and Anies in Tight Election Race: Poll**

The Jakarta Globe, 13-04-2017, Reuters

Incumbent Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama and his opponent Anies Baswedan are neck and neck in the capital's gubernatorial race, an opinion poll showed on Wednesday (12/04), a week ahead of election day.

The race, which has been among the most divisive in the city's history, has been marred by religious and ethnic tension over the blasphemy trial of Ahok, who is accused of insulting Islam.

Ahok collected 46.9 percent of the sample vote, trailing Anies by a single percentage point in one of the first opinion polls published since the two candidates made it through a first round election in mid-February. A candidate needs a simple majority to win.

Pollster Saiful Mujani Research Center (SMRC) said the survey of 800 respondents showed Anies enjoyed support primarily because of his Islamic faith, while Ahok was popular due to his record in office.

Nearly 90 percent of Indonesia's 250 million people are Muslims, but the country recognizes six religions and is home to sizable communities of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and those adhering to traditional beliefs. The state ideology, Pancasila, enshrines religious diversity in an officially secular system.

Ahok, who is Jakarta's second ethnic Chinese and Christian governor, offended Muslim groups when he made comments last year about his opponents' use of the Koran in political campaigning. Henk Ngantung, a Chinese Christian painter, held the office briefly in the 1960s.

Since then, Muslims, led by hardline groups, have held mass rallies to call for Purnama to be sacked, and to urge voters not to elect a non-Muslim. The rallies have raised concerns about growing religious intolerance in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation.

Ahok has apologized for his comments and denied any wrongdoing. He faces up to four years in prison if found guilty. Judges hearing the case decided this week to adjourn the trial until after voting day, after police and prosecutors asked for a delay because of security concerns.

### **Jakarta Election Exposes Deep Political, Religious Divides**

The Jakarta Globe, by Reuters, 16-04-2017

Jakarta voters will head to the polls on Wednesday (19/04) after a campaign that incited political and religious tensions in the world's most-populous Muslim country. Surveys have shown the race tightening to a statistical dead heat, with incumbent Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese Christian, closing in on rival Anies Baswedan, a former education minister.

Ahok is standing trial on blasphemy charges stemming from the divisive campaign that also featured mass rallies led by Islamist hardliners and alleged plots to overthrow President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

The Jakarta election is viewed as a larger choice ahead of a 2019 presidential poll between the secular policies Indonesia has practiced since its post-World War Two independence and a hardline political Islam that has strengthened in recent years. "This is a test case for Indonesian pluralism, if it can withstand the pressure of the religious groups, the populists," said Wimar Witoelar, a political analyst and an adviser to former President Abdurrahman Wahid. "Indonesia is at a crossroads, and I mean Indonesia, not just Jakarta."

A survey conducted on April 12-14 by polling firm Indikator showed Anies with 48.2 percent support versus 47.4 percent for Ahok, with 4.4 percent undecided.

The business community is worried about a possible violent backlash from the losing side in the election, which could affect the investment climate and endanger Jokowi's fit-and-start economic reforms. Southeast Asia's biggest economy grew 5.2 percent in 2016 and the government expects a repeat of that this year. Indonesian stocks are up 12.6 percent on the year, making the Jakarta market one of Asia's best performers.

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Kartika Wirjoatmodjo, chief executive officer of the largest state bank, Bank Mandiri, said in an interview that whoever won "we [should] make sure it doesn't affect any of the long-term policies, especially on the openness and ... ease of doing business and attracting investment." Ahok, who replaced Jokowi in 2014 as Jakarta governor after serving as his deputy, saw his popularity soar as he tackled decrepit infrastructure, chronic flooding and endemic corruption in the traffic-clogged city of over 10 million.

His support plunged after an edited video circulated last September suggesting Ahok had mocked a verse in the Koran used by his opponents to argue Muslims should not vote for a person holding different religious beliefs.

Amid two rallies last year that drew hundreds of thousands of protesters, Ahok was charged with blasphemy, forcing him to make regular appearances in court during the campaign.

The hardline Islamists behind the rallies — led by the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), a group known for attacks on religious minorities and extorting money from nightclubs — were cultivated by Ahok's rivals. Anies was accused of betraying his moderate Islamic roots when he met and sang with FPI leader Habib Rizieq, who was twice imprisoned for inciting violence in 2003 and 2008.

Ahok recovered to win the first round on Feb. 15 with 43 percent of the vote, compared to 40 percent for Anies and 17 percent for Agus Yudhoyono, son of former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who drew support from conservative Muslims.

The FPI was among groups circulating hoax news stories on social media during the campaign of a pending invasion of Chinese workers and Chinese plots to decimate Indonesia's crops with contaminated chili

The FPI has vowed to stage further protests and a "revolution" if Ahok wins, according to flyers circulated by the group.

A senior government official said a victory for Ahok could reignite religious tensions and China-baiting at a time when the government is chasing Chinese investment for much-needed infrastructure. "I worry that if a sizable portion of the electorate feels cheated

there could be a very serious backlash," said the official, who asked for anonymity to speak freely about the political climate in Indonesia.

However, political analyst Tobias Basuki also saw risks for the national government and its reform agenda if Anies won, given plans by his political patron Prabowo Subianto to challenge Jokowi in the 2019 presidential poll.

Anies was Jokowi's campaign manager in the 2014 presidential election, when he beat Subianto. But Jokowi sacked him as education minister last year. "Anies and Prabowo controlling Jakarta would impede Jokowi every step of the way," Tobias said.

### Social-economic Rights

#### **UN Special Rapporteur visits Indonesia - concerned about situation in West Papua**

International Coalition on West Papua, 07 April 2017 11:36

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dainius Pūras, who visited Indonesia from March 22nd until April 3rd 2017, called on the Indonesian government to increase national budget allocations for health. "However," he said, "increased investments in healthcare only make sense if the system is efficient, transparent, accountable, and responsive to those who use it." He also expressed concern about the healthcare situation in West Papua.

Indonesia is on the right track to develop an equitable and sustainable healthcare system based on universal health coverage, said today the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dainius Pūras, at the end of his first official visit to the country. However, he warned, "ambitious goals can be reached only if challenges are addressed."

The expert pointed out that important barriers persist, in law and practice, for the realization of sexual and reproductive health rights, consequently women and other key populations are exposed to different forms of violence and discrimination.

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Indonesia has a relatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS but new infections are on the rise amongst certain key affected populations who still face stigma and discrimination, including in healthcare settings.

"I am concerned about the health status of ethnic Papuans, who are two times more likely to have HIV/AIDS than the rest of the population, and new infections are on the rise," he noted calling for special attention and efforts from all stakeholders to build trust amongst service providers and users, and enhance access to treatment and services in a culturally-sensitive manner.

The Special Rapporteur will present a comprehensive report on his visit to Indonesia to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2018.

See also:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21476&LangID=E>

## Indigenous peoples' rights

### **Scandinavian banks linked to violations of indigenous peoples' rights in Borneo**

[SwedWatch Report 2017.03.07]

Scandinavian banks have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in companies that are linked to violations of indigenous peoples' rights in Borneo, according to a new report from Swedwatch and Fair Finance Guide Sweden.

The destruction of Borneo's forests has been referred to as one of the greatest environmental crimes of our time. The forest destruction and the dispossession of land from its traditional owners has resulted in a far-reaching human rights disaster. The report Silent Approval is based on an extensive field study in Borneo, which examines the impacts of four companies on indigenous peoples' rights and links to seven Scandinavian banks. The results of the study show that all the banks invest in several of the companies and that

the banks have not acted responsibly. Some of the companies were also included in the ethical funds of the banks.

The report outlines the investments of the Scandinavian banks Danske Bank, Handelsbanken, Länsförsäkringar, Nordea, SEB, Skandia and Swedbank in four companies associated with risks and impacts on indigenous peoples and their forests in Borneo. The report shows that the banks are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in the companies, and that none of them have taken appropriate action.

Case 1: The traditional agriculture land of a Kayan and Kenyah indigenous community in Sarawak was bulldozed with no prior consultation, to give way to the Malaysia-registered company IOI's oil palm plantation. The company has not provided compensation to enable them to maintain their traditional livelihoods for the future.

Case 2: A Dayak Murung indigenous community in Central Kalimantan has been affected by the Australian-British mining company BHP Billiton's large IndoMet Coal project. The community's access to traditional forests and land has been restricted, and there have been negative impacts on their agriculture.

Read the whole article at:

<http://www.swedwatch.org/en/reports/scandinavian-banks-linked-violations-indigenous-peoples%E2%80%99-rights-borneo>

## Political developments

### **KPK Investigator Novel Suffers Burns to His Face After Acid Attack by Unknown Men**

The Jakarta Globe, 11-04-2017

Novel Baswedan, a senior investigator at the Corruption Eradication Commission, or KPK, suffered serious burns to his face after unknown men threw acid on him near his home in Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta, in the early hours of Tuesday (11/04). Two unknown men on motorcycle threw acid in Novel's face as he walked home from a mosque after the dawn

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prayer at around 5 a.m. He was swiftly rushed to Mitra Keluarga Hospital in Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta, where he is still receiving medical treatment. "I can confirm that Novel was injured in an acid attack. He's still receiving treatment at the hospital," Novel's brother Taufik Baswedan told state news agency Antaranews.com on Tuesday morning. Taufik said the acid attack has caused injuries to Novel's face and eyes, and he may need to spend the night in hospital.

Adnan Topan Husodo, the coordinator of Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW) suspected the acid attack was related to the KPK's marathon probe of politicians in the high-profile electronic ID card, or e-KTP, corruption case.

"The attack on Novel is a threat to the corruption eradication agenda. The people responsible want a certain graft investigation to be stopped," Adnan said in a statement. He called on President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and National Police Chief Gen. Tito Karnavian to investigate the attack and bring the responsible parties to justice.

Last year, Novel also suffered injuries after being intentionally hit by a car while riding his motorcycle to KPK headquarters in Kuningan, South Jakarta. Novel, the cousin of Jakarta governor candidate Anies Baswedan, is investigating the Rp 2.3 trillion e-KTP corruption case that has implicated a score of senior politicians, including House of Representatives Speaker Setya Novanto and Justice Minister Yasonna Laoly. Setya and Yasonna have denied any wrongdoing and have not been indicted.

Novel was put under the spotlight recently after Miryam Haryani — a lawmaker from Hanura, or the People's Conscience Party, and a key witness in the e-KTP graft case — accused several KPK investigators, including Novel, of forcing her to sign the investigation report. Novel rejected the accusation.

During a hearing at the Jakarta Anti-Corruption Court last month, Novel testified that a number of lawmakers had threatened Miryam to prevent her from revealing their alleged involvement in the e-KTP case.

The lawmakers Novel mentioned in court were Bambang Soesatyo and Azis Syamsuddin of Golkar; Desmond J. Mahesa of the Great Indonesia Movement Party (Gerindra); and Masinton Pasaribu of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P).

The e-KTP project, which was supposed to provide biometric ID cards to all Indonesians aged 17 years and older, was mothballed in October 2015 following a series of problems, including a late start, technical glitches and officials demanding payments from residents to provide the ostensibly free service.

See also: <http://jakartaglobe.id/news/marathon-probe-politicians-test-graft-battle/>

### The Capital May Move Out From Jakarta

The Jakarta Globe, 12-04-2017

The government gets back to the idea of moving Indonesia's capital city from Jakarta to a new location, preferably outside Java. A study by the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) to assess the idea is expected to conclude later this year. There are several candidates for the new capital, including Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan. "It has to be outside Java Island," Bappenas head Bambang Brodjonegoro said on Monday (10/04).

According to Bambang, a strong argument for Palangkaraya is that Indonesia's first President Sukarno already in the 1950s was considering the move. Java, particularly Jakarta and its surrounding cities, has since decades been dominating the country's economic landscape. Also roughly 78 percent of the total tax collection comes from the island's economic activities.

In 2016, Java contributed 58.49 percent to the gross domestic product, followed by Sumatra (22.03 percent), Kalimantan (7.85 percent) and Sulawesi (6.04). "There's a need to build a new economic center outside Java," Bambang said. Huge floods in 2013, which froze Jakarta's transportation and economic activities, were another trigger, beside redressing the country's economic balance, that made the relocation idea resurface. Many also argue that Jakarta is too crowded to guarantee proper living standards for its inhabitants.