

Impunity

Suciwati in the Netherlands and Germany

On February 24 the widow of human rights defender Munir Said Thalib, Suciwati Munir arrived in The Netherlands for a brief visit. With her children, Alif and Diva, she had an exchange with students from the Haagse Hogeschool and visited the Munirpad in The Hague. See for some photos: <https://www.facebook.com/suci.wati.351>.

Freedom of Religion

On 9 March Mrs Sidney Jones, director of IPAC, will be in Leiden for a lecture at the KITLV

Is conservative Islam gaining ground in Indonesia? The gubernatorial elections in Jakarta have convinced many that the political clout of Islamic organizations has grown. Demands that the incumbent Basuki Tjahaja Purnama – a Christian of ethnic Hakka Chinese descent better known as Ahok – be convicted of blasphemy have been front and centre of efforts to diminish his electoral popularity. Furthermore, mass demonstrations by Islamic conservatives against the governor have dwarfed policy debates between the gubernatorial candidates.

As Amnesty International have reported, the charge of blasphemy has become increasingly common, with an estimated 106 convictions for blasphemy between 2005 and 2014, compared to approximately 10 during the 33 years of Suharto's New Order. These developments suggest that religion is increasingly politicised in a country known for its moderate version of Islam.

Yet, not everything is as it seems. During the first round of the elections, Ahok still managed to eke out a small victory. Furthermore, Islamic identity may have played a crucial role in mobilising demonstrators, but the size and success of the rallies was in no small part due to established support networks between Islamic conservatives and politicians who wished to usurp the popular governor.



Accordingly, this talk discusses the ramifications of sectarian mobilisation, debating the wider implications of the Jakarta elections for the agenda of Islamic advocates and their ability to utilise religious and ethnic identity for political purpose. Sidney Jones, a prominent expert on Islam and terrorism in Indonesia will discuss these issues together with Chris Chaplin, a postdoctoral researcher at KITLV.

Date: March 9 , Time: 15:30 - 17:00: Please register: kitlv@kitlv.nl

Organizers: KITLV / Amnesty International

Venue: Lecture Hall 02, Leiden University, Mathias Vrieshof 2, Leiden,

See for more information:

<http://us10.campaign-archive1.com/?u=8346fe2e698f24baa8e51d8f3&id=690f4dd13b&e=a71c9a1ae6>

Land rights

Hak ulayat in Papua

Kompas 25-02-2017

The member of the National Human Rights Commission, Natalius Pigai, together with two monitors of the Komnas HAM, Agus Suntoro and Andri Wahyu, show the report on the “hak ulayat”, traditional right of the indigenous people of the Amungme in the province of Papua. The report is important in connection with the activities of PT Freeport Indonesia in a press conference in Jakarta, (24/2). On that occasion they recommended that the population is compensated for the loss of traditional landuse and pressed that the indigenous people can receive shares in the PT Freeport for free.

Siti Nurbaya Bakar: Customary forests are not for sale

TEMPO.CO, Jakarta, 21-02-2017

At the end of last year, the environment and forestry ministry declared eight forests, covering 13,122.3 hectares and home to 5,700 families, as customary forests. The decision came five years after the Constitutional Court issued its Decree No. 35/2012, which removed the word 'state' from the management of community forests in the Forestry Act, Law No. 41/1999. The decision returns the rights to community forests from the state to traditional communities once a verification process has been completed.

"The government believes that traditional communities have so far shown that they can manage their forests well," Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar told Tempo reporters Amri Mahbub and Aisha Shaidra last month.

The minister also explained the penalty for selling customary forest land and why the government has only recently begun declaring the customary forest status.

Read the whole article: <https://en.tempo.co/read/news/2017/02/21/241848719/Siti-Nurbaya-Bakar-Customary-forests-are-not-for-sale>

Migrant workers' rights

Indonesian woman shocked to find kidney had been removed after working in Qatar

The Jakarta Post, 27-02-2017

A migrant worker from North Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, is suspected of having fallen victim to organ trafficking while working in Doha, Qatar.

Sri Rabitah, 25, who started working as a housemaid in Doha in 2014, also claims to have been abused by her first employer.

She said she had been taken to the hospital on her third day of employment and was unknowingly operated on. She woke up the next day in pain and discovered stiches on her stomach.

Her employer said nothing about the matter and later returned her to the agency that had assigned her to the job. She was assigned to other employers but was sent back home the same year because as she had fallen ill frequently.

The resident of Sesait village found out earlier this year that one of her kidneys had been removed after a checkup at a hospital. She visited the office of the North Lombok regent on Monday to seek help. "I want the government to sue the perpetrator. My kidney was stolen," said Sri.

Death penalty

The Attorney General's Office starts to get ready

Kompas, 25-02-2017

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) has for the fourth time taken steps in the direction of the executions of convicts on death row. Still the controversies in public opinion remain to be considered. President Joko Widodo started the range of executions in 2015 with 14

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executions in two phases. The four people followed in 2016. They were all convicts of drugs related crimes. For the fourth phase it will be the same kind of convicts.

Attorney General HM Prasetyo said that the process will be continued for the drugs-related convicts. But he was also aware of the impact influencing the government's policy, as a result of the exchange on this matter with other countries. "We are not alone in the world, so we have to see and consider other opinions also. Moreover, the government is now concentrating on economic improvements and a stable political arena. For we see, don't we, that each execution gives a lot of fuss which may influence the efforts we are working on," said Prasetyo.

"But this does not mean that we will stop the executions in relation to the extraordinary criminal acts. The Attorney General's Office will continue to do the planning and we even have requested the Supreme Court's decision on the status of clemency requests. Sure, our intention to eradicate these extraordinary crimes has not changed. So we still will carry it out. Only the moments has not yet been decided," said Prasetyo

The budget to carry out these executions has been allocated. Each year, said Prasetyo, the budget has to be included in the item of handling general criminal cases. But if the executions are cancelled the funds flow back into the state budget. The budget 2017 for this general criminal case handling, where the executions are included, totals nearly 200 billion Rp. This allocation is higher than that of 2016, when it was 180 billion Rp. But overall the budget of the Attorney General has gone down from 4.5 trillion to 4.1 trillion.

On a separate occasion the chairman of the Setara Institute, Hendarji, has expressed his disappointment about these plans. It seems that the government and the attorney's office have not learned from the former phase of executions. From the 14 planned to be executed, only four of them were brought to the execution grounds. Up to now, the attorney's office has not made clear what the reasons were behind those four executions. President Joko Widodo and the Attorney General have the power to discontinue the process, as was the case in the years before.

"The President and the Attorney General have the power to establish a moratorium. But they do not want to carry out this even not on humanitarian grounds. They should be aware of the impact," said Hendarji.

Political developments

'Our Democracy Has Gone Over the Top': Jokowi

The Jakarta Globe, 23-03-2017

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has criticized what he calls recent incidents of "over the top democracy" and instructed law enforcers to crack down on anti-Pancasila groups.

Pancasila, or the five tenets, is Indonesia's official state ideology.

Jokowi said in the past few months a few groups have been stoking fire on sensitive issues related to race, religion, ethnicity and class. "Dealing with these issues is draining our energy and turns our attention away from economic issues," Jokowi said in a speech at the inauguration of Hanura Party's central leadership board in Bogor, West Java, on Wednesday (22/02).

Jokowi criticized people who hide behind the veil of democracy to go over the top with their social commentary and end up sprouting hate speeches, slanders and hoaxes. "We can have democracy, but there's no place for liberalism, radicalism, fundamentalism, sectarianism, terrorism or other ideologies which are against Pancasila," Jokowi said. "Democracy has gone over the top recently. We need to have stronger law enforcement," Jokowi said. Hanura, or the People's Conscience Party is now led by Oesman Saptia Odang, known by his nickname Oso, with Sarifuddin Sudding as the new secretary general. Oesman replaced Wiranto, who now chairs Hanura's advisory board. Wiranto is also the Chief Security Minister.

Arteria Dahlan, a politician from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, or PDI-P, said President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's recent comment that democracy in Indonesia "has gone over the top" is entirely justified. Arteria said Jokowi's statement was based on facts, not just opinions. "The fact is some people have been undermining other people's rights in the name of democracy, and the president wants that stamped out," Arteria said in Jakarta on Friday (24/02).

Arteria pointed out this was one of the reasons why recently the news and social media have been dominated by fake news and hoaxes. "Jokowi is not anti-democracy," he added.