



PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in INDONESIA

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the Body also.

(Hebrews 13:3)



Total Population: 273,523,615

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 16% – **Evangelical Witness: 3%**

Death Rate: 6,59/1000 per year: Just today: 4,938

Christian Youtuber in Indonesia Arrested for Blasphemy

08/26/2021 Indonesia (International Christian Concern) – Indonesian police have arrested a Christian Youtuber after a recent video he uploaded on Youtube went viral and offended Muslims around the country.

Muhammad Kace, a former Muslim, was taken away by the police from his hideout in Bali on Wednesday, after a series of complaints were filed by Muslims accusing him of blasphemy. His latest sermon video allegedly insulted Prophet Muhammad by claiming the prophet was “surrounded by devils and liars.”

He is charged with violations of articles on blasphemy and disinformation under the Criminal Code (KUHP) and the Information and Electronic Transactions Act (UU ITE). He can serve up to six years in prison.

According to National Police, he uploaded about 400 controversial videos across various social media platforms, 20 of which have been taken down.

Muhammad Kace is currently transported by police from Bali to the Criminal Investigation Unit headquarters in Jakarta for further questioning.

Kace’s case again highlights Indonesia’s abusive Blasphemy Law and how it can easily be employed to prosecute people of other faith criticizing Islam, whereas Muslims mocking Christians or Buddhists are always spared.

Philip Situmorang, spokesman of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia, said he hoped there would not be a backlash against Christians.

“We hope there will be no repercussions and that society can remain in harmony,” he told UCA News.

What does persecution look like in Indonesia? What is life like for Christians?

In Indonesia, the situation for Christians has been deteriorating in recent years, with Indonesian society taking on a more conservative Islamic character. Christians who grew up in a Muslim home often experience persecution from their families. However, the persecution intensity varies given the individual family and location. In many homes, families will verbally abuse their Christian family members and isolate them because of their faith. Only a small percentage of converts face physical violence for their Christian faith.

The level of persecution also depends on the region of Indonesia where Christians live. In certain hot spots, like West Java or Aceh, extremist Islamic groups are strong and heavily influence society and politics. If they catch Christians evangelizing, believers could run into problems. Also, non-traditional church groups tend to experience difficulties getting permission for building churches. Even if they manage to fulfill all legal requirements (including winning court cases), the local authorities still often ignore them.