



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)



Indonesia

Total Population: 273,523,615

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

Largest Religion: Muslim - 80%

Death Rate: 6.59/1000 per year: Just today: **4,938**

Dozens of Places of Worship Shut Down in Indonesia in Recent Years

11/12/2020 Indonesia (International Christian Concern) - In the last three years, more than 23 houses of worship in Indonesia were forcibly shut down or vandalized, according to the country's human rights agency in a video conference.

Last Friday, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) pointed out that the discrimination faced by Indonesia's religious minorities continues to exist, with many houses of worship being pressured to close by unfriendly Muslim neighbors or local authorities.

The data from 2017 to 2019 are likely the tip of the iceberg as many such incidents are not formally reported to Komnas HAM, according to its chairman, Ahmad Taufan Damanik.

In addition to obstruction to mosques and buildings constructed by Ahmadiyah or Wahhabism adherents, Hindu temple, several protestant churches also faced protests and harassment from local Muslim communities.

The main cause of the problem is a decree on religious harmony and places of worship issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 2006. Taufan urged the government to revise it.

The decree stipulates that the establishment of a house of worship must gain the approval of at least 60 local residents and have a minimum of 90 followers.

"If there is no clear and firm action on the 2006 decree, freedom of religion and beliefs will continue to face hurdles," said Taufan, according to BenarNews' report.

Indonesian Supreme Court Overturns Decree Dedicated to Religious Inclusion in Schools

05/11/2021 Indonesia (International Christian Concern) - According to the Union of Catholic Asian News (UCAN), on May 7, 2021, the Indonesian Supreme Court overturned a recent ministerial decree banning state schools from restricting the different religious beliefs of teachers and students.

The decree initially intended to prevent religious discrimination and intolerance after an Indonesian state high school in West Sumatra ordered all females to wear a hijab, despite different religious identities in the school.

However, UCAN said the Supreme Court overturned the decree because it "contravened existing laws on the jurisdiction of local governments, child protection, and the national education system." The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) questioned how the decree contravened child protection "since its motive was to help protect the rights of children."

KPAI commissioner, Retno Listyari, told UCAN in an interview, "Schools must be a safe place for study, where religious differences should not be used as a tool to disrespect others. Schools should be teaching students to respect the rights of others and celebrate diversity."

The Catholic Church and religious rights activists say the ruling will further encourage discrimination and remove classmates from learning to respect each other.