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Religious Diversity in Muslim-majority States in Southeast Asia

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Religious Diversity in Muslim-majority States in Southeast Asia

*Areas of Toleration
and Conflict*

EDITED BY

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This book project began about two years ago with the idea of commissioning writers for a volume on the theme of religious minorities in Muslim Southeast Asia. We thought that such a volume would be very appropriate and valuable for ISEAS to publish since no substantial book-length work existed on such a topic in the literature. The issue of religious tolerance in Muslim-majority Southeast Asia has certainly been becoming highly significant. Hardly a week would pass in Indonesia and Malaysia, the two Muslim-majority states of Southeast Asia, without some controversy emerging about non-Muslim minorities. While much work exists on Islam in the two countries, the work on how Islam has impacted on religious minorities was rather sparse. Through a call for papers on the ISEAS webpage and through our own expertise on the subject, we put together a team of scholars to write this collection of empirical case studies on the subject.

The editors would like to thank Mr Tan Chin Tiong (Director of ISEAS), Dr Ooi Kee Beng (Deputy Director), Mrs Triena Ong (former Head of Publications), Mr Ng Kok Kiong (current Head of Publications), Ms Sheryl Sin Bing Peng and the rest of the team for their encouragement and support in making this book possible. We want to thank all the authors for their commendable efforts and their reliability in meeting deadlines and in correspondence. Finally, our thanks go to two anonymous readers who gave us valuable comments on an earlier version of the manuscript. All responsibility for inadvertent omissions or errors naturally rests on the editors.

Bernhard Platzdasch
Johan Saravanamuttu

GLOSSARY

INDONESIA

<i>abangan</i>	nominal, less strict, (Javanese) Muslims
<i>adat</i>	customary practice or laws
<i>agama</i>	religion
<i>ahl al-kitab</i>	denoting the scripture-based religions of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities, acknowledged and, according to Islam, completed by the Qur'an as the final revelation
<i>ahl as-Sunnah</i>	Sunnis (or Sunnites): the largest denomination of Islam
Ahmadiyah	a controversial minority Muslim sect
<i>aliran sesat</i>	deviant sect
<i>al-Mahdi</i>	the prophesied redeemer of Islam
<i>al-Masih</i>	Messiah
AKKBB	Aliansi Kebangsaan untuk Kebebasan Beragama dan Berkeyakinan (National Alliance for Freedom of Religion and Faith), coalition promoting religious freedom and tolerance
<i>angpao</i>	red envelope with money, a present given during Chinese New Year
Ansor	the young men's branch of NU
<i>azan</i>	call to prayer

<i>bahasa gaul</i>	social talk, the slang used by Indonesian youth
Bahtsul Masail	a body within NU that debates classical texts and issues “ <i>fatwa</i> ” like decisions on NU policy and stance on social and religious issues
<i>bajingan</i> or <i>badjingan</i>	a common term for scoundrel in Madura and East Java and a more derogatory term sometimes used for <i>blater</i>
Banser	the paramilitary wing of Ansor
<i>bangsat</i> or <i>bhangsat</i>	a word that is sometimes used to refer to <i>blater</i> today
BAPPN	Badan Anti Pornografi dan Pornoaksi Nasional (National Anti-Pornography and Porno-actions Agency)
<i>bay'at</i>	a pledge of allegiance
<i>bedug</i>	a drum calling to prayer
<i>bhubuwan</i>	the amount of money given to the host of a <i>remo</i>
<i>bid'ah</i>	“improper” innovations
Blambangan	the realm which was centred in contemporary Banyuwangi, from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century.
<i>blater</i>	local strongmen in Madura
<i>budaya</i>	culture
<i>carok</i> or <i>tjarok</i>	a distinctive fight in Madura using sharp weapons, mostly but not exclusively sickles to regain one's honour
<i>dakwah</i>	invitation to faith, religious preaching, Islamic outreach
<i>dai</i>	preacher, agent of the call to faith
<i>doa</i>	recital of prayers
DPR	Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (Peoples' Representative Council, parliament)

<i>dukun</i>	shamans, healers, and fortune-tellers
ELSAM	Lembaga Studi dan Advokasi Masyarakat (Institute for Study and Community Advocacy)
<i>fatwa</i>	religious opinion given by Islamic scholars and authorities
FORGAPP	Forum Gerakan Anti Pronografi dan Pornoaksi (Forum for the Anti Pornography and Porno-action Movement)
<i>forum externum</i>	external manifestations of freedom of religion or belief
<i>forum internum</i>	internal aspects of freedom of religion or belief
FUI	Forum Umat Islam (Forum of Believers)
FUII	Forum Umat Islam Indonesia (Indonesian Ulama Forum)
FPI	Front Pembela Islam (Islamic Defenders' Front), Islamic vigilante group formed in 1999 to combat immoral behavior in Indonesian society
<i>garis keras</i>	hardline (Muslims)
GBI	Gereja Bethel Indonesia (Indonesian Bethel Church)
GKJ	Gereja Kristen Jawa (Javanese Christian Church)
Golkar	the ruling government party during the New Order (1966–98)
<i>gombor</i>	traditional Madurese black-coloured trousers
<i>hadith</i>	sayings of the Prophet Muhammad
<i>halal</i>	lawful or 'permitted' according to Islamic principles
<i>halal-bihalal</i>	a gathering for mutual forgiveness to celebrate Idul Fitri
<i>haram</i>	unlawful or 'prohibited' according to Islamic principles and law
Hizbut Tahrir	Liberation party; founded in Jerusalem in 1953 with central aim of reviving the caliphate; the Indonesian branch was active from 1982

Hokkien	a Chinese dialect originated from the Fujian province in China
<i>hukum</i>	law
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICIP	International Centre for Islam and Pluralism
Idul Fitri	religious festival marking the end of the fasting month
<i>imlek</i>	Hokkien term for Chinese New Year
Islam Hatuhaha	a local variant of Islam in the Moluccas with peculiarities such as holding a weekly prayer on Friday instead of the obligatory five daily prayers and the calculation of Muslim festivals such as Idul Fitri by <i>adat</i> elders
<i>jago</i> or <i>jagoan</i>	local strongmen in nineteenth-century Java
JIL	Jaringan Islam Liberal (Liberal Islam Network)
<i>jawara</i>	local strongmen in Banten
<i>jilbab</i>	head covering, headscarf
<i>jubah</i>	long and loose dress, which hides the whole body shape
<i>juru kunci</i>	custodians of graveyards
<i>kabah</i>	cubicle shrine in the Great Mosque of Mecca
<i>kebatinan</i>	syncretism, syncretist beliefs, and sects
<i>kerapan sapi</i>	Madurese bull racing
<i>khaul</i>	annual celebrations on the death anniversaries of religious leaders
<i>kiai dukun</i>	<i>kiai</i> who also acts as shaman, healer, and fortune-teller
<i>klebun</i>	Madurese village heads
<i>klenteng</i>	Chinese temple
<i>koko</i>	Hokkien term for older brother

<i>koko shirt</i>	a collarless shirt, commonly worn by male Indonesian Muslims
Kowani	Kongres Wanita Indonesia (Indonesian Women's Congress)
KUHAP	Hukum Acara Pidana (Code of Criminal Procedures)
LAIM	Lembaga Antar-Iman Maluku (Moluccan Interfaith Council)
LPPI	Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengkajian Islam (Institute for the Study and Teaching of Islam)
<i>mazhab</i>	(medieval) school of law in Islam
<i>maksiat</i>	sin (i.e., un-Islamic deed and thought)
<i>maw'izah hasanah</i>	good learning
<i>masjid</i>	mosque
<i>mengharamkan</i>	"the prohibiting of"
MAI	Majelis Islam A'laa Indonesia (Supreme Council of Indonesian Muslims); formed in 1937
MK	Mahkamah Konstitusi (Constitutional Court)
MONAS	Monumen Nasional (National Monument)
MMI	Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia (Council of Indonesian Muhajideen), Islamist grouping established in 2000 in Yogyakarta
Muhammadiyah	largest modernist Muslim organization in Indonesia, established in 1912
MUI	Majelis Ulama Indonesia (Indonesia Ulama Council)
<i>mujadalah</i>	discussion and civilized debate
<i>murtad</i>	someone who is considered to have left Islam
<i>napel</i>	giving money to the dancer(s) in <i>remo</i> by putting it on the dancer's chest
<i>ngompang</i>	the <i>blater's</i> act of giving more money to the host (a fellow <i>blater</i> , who was himself a guest at an earlier occasion) in <i>remo</i> than he received from him before

<i>ngaji</i> (as a noun)	<i>pengajian</i> ; religious instruction; any meeting of people in which the participants recognize the purpose to be religious but which is not among the rituals prescribed in traditionalist Islam
<i>ngaji</i> (as a verb)	to partake in formalized group Islamic instruction
NGO	non-governmental organization
NU	Nahdlatul Ulama, largest traditionalist-orthodox Muslim organization in Indonesia, est. 1926
<i>nyareh Taretan</i> or <i>nyareh Kancab</i>	means of establishing new fraternities or fortifying old brotherhoods in <i>remo</i>
<i>odheng</i>	traditional Madurese head accessories
<i>ormas</i>	<i>organisasi masyarakat</i> , community-based organization
<i>osing</i>	the predominant ethnic group in Banyuwangi
PAN	Partai Amanat Nasional (National Mandate Party)
Pancasila	the Five Moral Principles that make up Indonesia's national doctrine
<i>pasarean</i>	sacred burial grounds
PBHI	Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (Indonesian Legal Aid Association)
PBNU	Pengurus Besar Nahdlatul Ulama (Executive Board of NU)
<i>pesa'an</i>	traditional Madurese black-coloured shirts
PKS	Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (Prosperity and Justice Party), largest Islamist party in Indonesia
<i>patkwa</i>	Chinese eight-sided diagram, symbolizing luck and prosperity
<i>peci</i>	rimless cap, commonly worn by male Indonesian Muslims
<i>pela</i>	traditional village alliances
<i>pembauran</i>	intermingling, blending

<i>pengajian</i>	Islamic study session
<i>pesantren</i>	Islamic boarding school
PITI	Persatuan Islam Tionghoa Indonesia (Indonesian Chinese Muslim Association)
PPP	Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (Unity Development Party), Islamist party
<i>preman</i>	thug, gangster, term commonly used in Jakarta
<i>pryayi</i>	the aristocratic, bureaucracy-based mystical and Hindu religious adherence identified by Geertz in 1950s Pare.
<i>qigong</i>	Chinese breathing exercise
Qur'an	God's word revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, the supreme source of Islam
Ramadan	Islamic fasting month
<i>rakaat</i>	prostrations during prayer
<i>reformasi</i>	political, social, and economic reform — refers to the period immediately preceding and for several years following Soeharto's fall in May 1998
<i>remo</i>	a feast characteristic to the <i>blater</i> community
<i>rokat</i>	Madurese rituals to ask protection from the spirits of their ancestors, to avoid calamities as well as to get blessings
RMS	Republik Maluku Selatan (Republic of the South Moluccas)
<i>sabung ayam</i>	cock fighting
<i>sakera</i>	typical Madurese red and white striped t-shirt
<i>sandur</i> or <i>sandhor</i>	Madurese dancing performed in <i>remo</i> , in Java called <i>tayub</i>
<i>santri</i>	pupils or followers of a <i>kiai</i>
<i>sesat</i>	deviant
<i>syariah</i> (<i>shari'a</i>)	Islamic law

Shiism (Sy'ia, Sy'iah, Shia)	one of the two major branches of Islam, regarding Ali, the son-in-law of Muhammad, as the Prophet's legitimate successor
<i>sholat</i>	ritual prayers performed five times daily
<i>silaturahim</i>	friendship, good relationship
<i>siwalima</i>	referring to a cultural dichotomization of Moluccan society (<i>siwa</i> and <i>lima</i>) that, however, can only exist in its unity
SKB	Surat Keputusan Bersama (Joint Ministerial Decree)
<i>syahadat</i>	oath
<i>syiar</i>	preaching
<i>syirik</i>	idolatry, polytheism
<i>tandhak</i>	dancers in <i>remo</i>
<i>taraweh</i>	non-obligatory evening prayers during fasting month
<i>tayub</i>	traditional Central and East Javanese art performance whose dancers are called <i>tledhek</i> , <i>taledhek</i> , <i>ledhek</i> , or <i>tandak</i> . An integral part of spirit shrine ritual associated with the annual <i>bersih desa</i> (spirit shrine ritual) festivity
<i>Tionghoa</i>	Hokkien term for Chinese people
<i>umat, ummah</i>	Muslim community
UUD	Undang-Undang Dasar, the national constitution of Indonesia
<i>walisongo</i>	the nine saints popularly credited for spreading Islam in Java
<i>waria</i>	transgender people
YHMCHI	Yayasan Haji Muhammad Cheng Hoo Indonesia (Muhammad Cheng Hoo Foundation)
YLBHI	Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation)
<i>ziarah</i>	pilgrimage to the graves of saints

MALAYSIA

ABIM	Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Malaysian Youth Islamic Movement)
Allah	Muslim name for God, a term also used by Christians and Sikhs in Malaysia
ACCIN	Allied Coordinating Committee of Islamic NGOs
ASWJ	<i>Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> . The official Sunni-Shafi'i school of Islam practised in Malaysia prescribed by the Malaysian Department of Islamic Advancement Malaysia
<i>azan</i>	Muslim call to prayer
Bahasa Malaysia	The national language of Malaysia, sharing a linguistic root of Malay with Bahasa Indonesia
Bahasa Indonesia	The national language of Indonesia.
Barisan Nasional	National Front, which was originally made up of the political parties United Malays National Organization (UMNO), Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), and the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) when it was named Parti Perikatan (Alliance Party)
<i>Baitullah</i>	House of Allah
<i>bomoh</i>	shaman, traditional healer
<i>Bumiputera</i>	A Malaysian term meaning 'sons of the soil' referring to the Malays, indigenous peoples of Peninsular Malaysia and the natives of Sarawak and Sabah
CCM	Council of Churches Malaysia, the national body that represents mainline Protestant churches in Malaysia.
CFC	Christian Federation of Malaysia
<i>dakwah</i>	Islamic missionary activity
Dhammic socialism	Synthesis of a Buddhist worldview and Western egalitarian political idealism encouraging Buddhists to be actively engaged in worldly affairs to fight for a just world

Darul Arqam	House of Arqam, a group considered deviant by the Malaysian government and Malaysian Islamic authorities
<i>halal</i>	permissible in Islam
<i>haram</i>	forbidden in Islam
Hindraf	Hindu Rights Action Force
<i>ijtihad</i>	individual reasoning (in Islamic jurisprudence)
<i>Kaabah</i>	The large stone structure in Mecca which is circumambulated by Muslims during the pilgrimage
<i>Kaedah-Kadeah Hukum Sebat</i>	Caning methods sanctioned by <i>hudud</i> law
<i>kafir</i>	Unbeliever or non-believer in the eyes of Muslims
<i>hudud</i>	The class of punishments under <i>Syariah</i> fixed for theft, robbery, illicit sex, alcohol consumption and apostasy
<i>hajj</i>	Pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of faith for Muslims
IFC	Inter-Faith Commission
IIUM	International Islamic University of Malaysia
ISA	Internal Security Act. The ISA was repealed and replaced by Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 on 18 June 2012
<i>Islam Hadhari</i>	Civilizational Islam
JAIS	Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (Islamic Department of Selangor)
JAKIM	Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Malaysian Department of Islamic Advancement Malaysia)
JAWI	Jabatan Agama Wilayah Persekutuan (Islamic Department of Federal Territory)
<i>kaum muda</i>	modernists
<i>kaum tua</i>	traditionalists

<i>Ketuanan Melayu</i>	Malaya supremacy or Malay lordship
<i>khalwat</i>	Term used in Malaysia to mean the compromising proximity of single men and women, chargeable as an offence for Muslims.
<i>malu</i>	embarrassment, shame
MBA	Malaysian Buddhist Association
MCCBCHST	Malaysian Consultative Council for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism
Parti Keadilan Rakyat	People's Justice Party
Persatuan Ulama Malaysia	Association of Islamic Scholars Malaysia
PAS	Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (Islamic Party of Malaysia)
PERKIM	Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam se-Malaysia (Malaysian Islamic Welfare Organization)
Malay	Constitutionally defined as those who practise Malay customs (<i>adat</i>), habitually speak the Malay language and are adherents of Islam
<i>kampung</i>	Malay village/neighbourhood
Kelabit	The Kelabit inhabit the highlands of Central Borneo in the state of Sarawak, East Malaysia, and are also known as the Highlanders
Lun Bawang	Formerly identified as Murut, the Lun Bawang community are closely related to the Kelabit people and considered to be earlier settlers of the highland regions of northeastern part of Sarawak
<i>Majlis Kebangsaan Bagi Hal Ehwal Ugama Islam</i>	Malaysian National Council of Islamic Affairs
MBA	Malaysian Buddhist Association
<i>Menteri Besar</i>	Malay term for chief executive of the state government, equivalent to chief minister

<i>nasyid</i>	Islamic devotional music
NECF	National Evangelical Christian Fellowship, the national body that represents Evangelical (independent Protestant) churches in Malaysia.
OIC	Organization of Islamic Conference
Pakatan Rakyat	People's Alliance, the political coalition made up of opposition parties that were formed in 2008. The major parties in this coalition are Parti Keadilan Rakyat/People's Justice Party (PKR), Democratic Action Party (DAP) and the Islamic Party of Malaysia (PAS)
PEMBELA	Muslim Organizations in Defence of Islam
<i>pondok</i>	Islamic boarding school
<i>Puzhao Buddhist Vihara Puzhao</i>	A multi-purpose Buddhist training, education, research and cultivation centre built by YBAM
<i>qisas</i>	Offenses that involve bodily injury or loss of life punishable by death and imprisonment but which can be compensated by money or property
<i>shahadah</i>	Islamic declaration of faith
<i>sheik</i>	Arabic honorific
Shiism (Sy'ia, Sy'iah, Shia)	Followers of Ali, who regarded him as the legitimate successor to the Prophet Muhammad
Sijil Farid	A certificate stating that inheritance is distributed in accordance to Islamic law in Malaysia
<i>solat</i>	Prayer as defined in Islam
<i>Sunnah</i>	Teachings, sayings, and practices of the Prophet Muhammad
<i>syariah (shari'a)</i>	Islamic law
Tabligh groups	Islamic missionary groups springing from the Deobandi movement, Tabligh Jumaat, of the Indian subcontinent

<i>taqlid</i>	imitation
<i>tariqa</i>	Sufi order/brotherhood
<i>ummah</i>	community of Muslim believers
UMNO	United Malays National Organization
<i>ustad (ustaz)</i>	religious teacher (Islam)
Wesak Day	(Vesak or Vesakha) Day is a holy day for Buddhists in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asian countries. It encompasses the day of the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Gautama Buddha in Theravada traditions
YBAM	Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia
Yang Di Pertuan Agong	The Paramount Ruler or King in Malaysia
<i>zakat</i>	Donation of a proportion of one's earnings, one of the five pillars of faith for Muslims
<i>zinah</i>	Sex outside of wedlock or adultery as defined in Islam

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