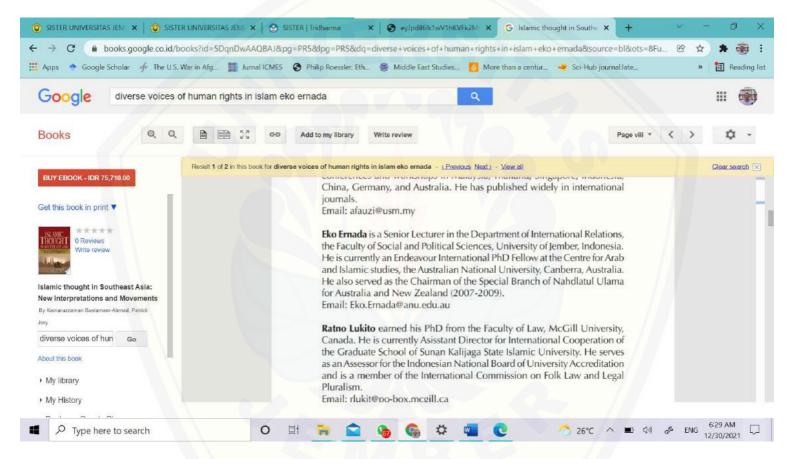
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Diverse Voices of Human Rights in Islam in Indonesia

Eko Ernada

The discourse of human rights and Islam has been the subject of considerable attention and a growing body of scholarly literature in Indonesia in recent years. This attention is not simply part of the academic agenda of a moderate-liberal Islam but has also become an important issue of the Islamist movement. The literature on Islam and human rights that has been produced by liberal or reformist Muslims is widely recognized, especially in Western academic circles. However interpretations of human rights on the part of the Islamists have received much less attention. Part of the reason for this is that interpretations of liberal or reformist Muslims seem to fit with the broader philosophy of Western liberalism with its underlying values of tolerance, pluralism, and moderate secularism. Islamist thinking, on the other hand, tends to be seen as lacking in intellectual creativity and having the potential to disturb the harmony of the majority of moderate Muslims.

In contributing to human rights discourse Indonesian Muslims, like Muslims in many other countries around the world, seem to face an underlying tension between their religious tenets and existing social, political, and economic realities that are not always conducive to the realization of those beliefs. The dynamics of modern Islamic movements in Indonesia over the past 70 years have left an indelible mark on Indonesian Islam. That is, it has produced a Muslim society characterized by a plurality of socio-religious groups, ideas and strategies (Hikam 1997). Consequently the subject of human rights and their implementation have generated different responses among different Islamic groups. This chapter describes the plurality of Muslim responses in Indonesia to the modern conception of human rights, drawing in particular on Muslim interpretations of key issues in the discourse of human rights and Islam today: women's rights, religious freedom and minority rights, and corporal punishment. This investigation