



NEWS BUSINESS SE ASIA OPINION LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MULTIMEDIA DEEP LOOK PAPER EDITION MORE

- INDEX
- POLITICS
- WORLD
- INDONESIA
- JAKARTA
- SPORTS
- POSTSCRIPT

- INDEX
- ACADEMIA
- COMMENTARY
- INSIGHT
- ANALYSIS
- INTERVIEW

- INDEX
- NEWS
- DESTIN
- JAKPO
- GUIDE
- TO

- INDEX
- VIDEO
- PHOTO
- DEEP
- LOOK
- PODCAST

- JOBS
- EVENTS
- WRITING CENTER
- IMAGES
- MOBILE APPS
- PUBLISHING

NEWS > NATIONAL

Tolikara: Majority-minority ties and its discontent



Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now



Most Indonesians were shocked by the incident in Tolikara, Papua, when Muslims who held an Idul Fitri prayer service in a local mosque were disrupted by a violent Christian mob affiliated with the Evangelical Church of Indonesia (GIDI). Some Muslims overreacted and wanted to retaliate, while others called on their fellow Muslims to exercise restraint.



even though the restrictions on celebrating Idul Fitri in Tolikara were written in an official letter signed by the local chair of the GIDI.

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

In the post-reformasi era, repression of minorities is still increasing, even though there has been significant development regarding religious freedom in the Constitution. This shows social norms and cultures have yet to include respect of minorities.

Yet, whatever the reason, we must realize that similar incidents have already occurred and will potentially occur in other regions. Until recently, the segregation of intra and interreligious public spheres in Indonesia often causes social and religious disharmony, which usually results in the alienation of religious minorities.

When there is advocacy to protect these minorities, the majority often sees it as the promotion of liberal human rights, which is considered alien to Indonesian legal norms and culture.

Tolikara and similar incidents suggest that majority groups generally justify their repressive actions against minorities because they accuse minorities as being transgressive. They argue that minorities break or challenge established community



In many cases, these '€ community norms'€ generally force minorities to follow certain rules set up by the majority, which are potentially detrimental to their rights

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

However, the government usually prefers to accommodate these '€ community norms'€ when enacting regulations.

For example, a Joint Ministerial Decree that regulates the construction of places of worship requires each religious organisation to obtain 60 signatures from people in the surrounding area who agree to support the establishment of the place of worship.

Additionally, it also requires agreement from 90 people who will use the place for religious congregation.

This decree basically regulates two main matters; protecting religious harmony and controlling the establishment of places of worship.

Even though the decree was enacted by the government to prevent conflict and to preserve religious harmony, in practice it has caused rather than prevented religious violence.



monopolizes the interpretation of constitutional religious freedom and religious pluralism as a foundation of the nation. They repudiate the Indonesian concept of religious pluralism that all minorities should have the right to religious freedom equal

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

ference as a threat to their community members.

When the majority has this kind of interpretation, they create socio-religious barriers to segregate communities. If the minorities demand particular rights without fulfilling their obligations to respect the '€ community norms'€ determined by the majority, it is seen as a kind of social confrontation, or more specifically a human rights confrontation; basically a sort of a clash between individualism and communalism.

It is especially so in rural communities like Tolikara because this discourse is closely related to customary norms that generally give precedence to the larger community over minorities and individuals.

This also suggests that even though Indonesia does not uphold a theocratic state where the state is the manifestation of the social group that adheres to a certain religion, repressions of minorities show an uneasy relationship between religion and the state, and the position of religion as a pillar of collective identity within society.



pluralism do not only require non-interference from the government, but also oblige other religious groups to have adequate knowledge of the rights of others.

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

Thus minority groups are threatened not only by the state, but also by the social majority that renders minorities vulnerable to significant injustice at the hands of the majority.

The author is a PhD student at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and is writing a PhD dissertation titled '€ Protecting religious minorities within Islam in Indonesia: A challenge for international human rights law and Islamic law'€ .

0 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin



Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE :



Japan formally proclaims Crown Prince Akishino heir to throne



Senior auditor Agung Firman to lead badminton association as new chief



'God Bless America': world media react to Biden win





Austria's Muslims wary of backlash after attack

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now



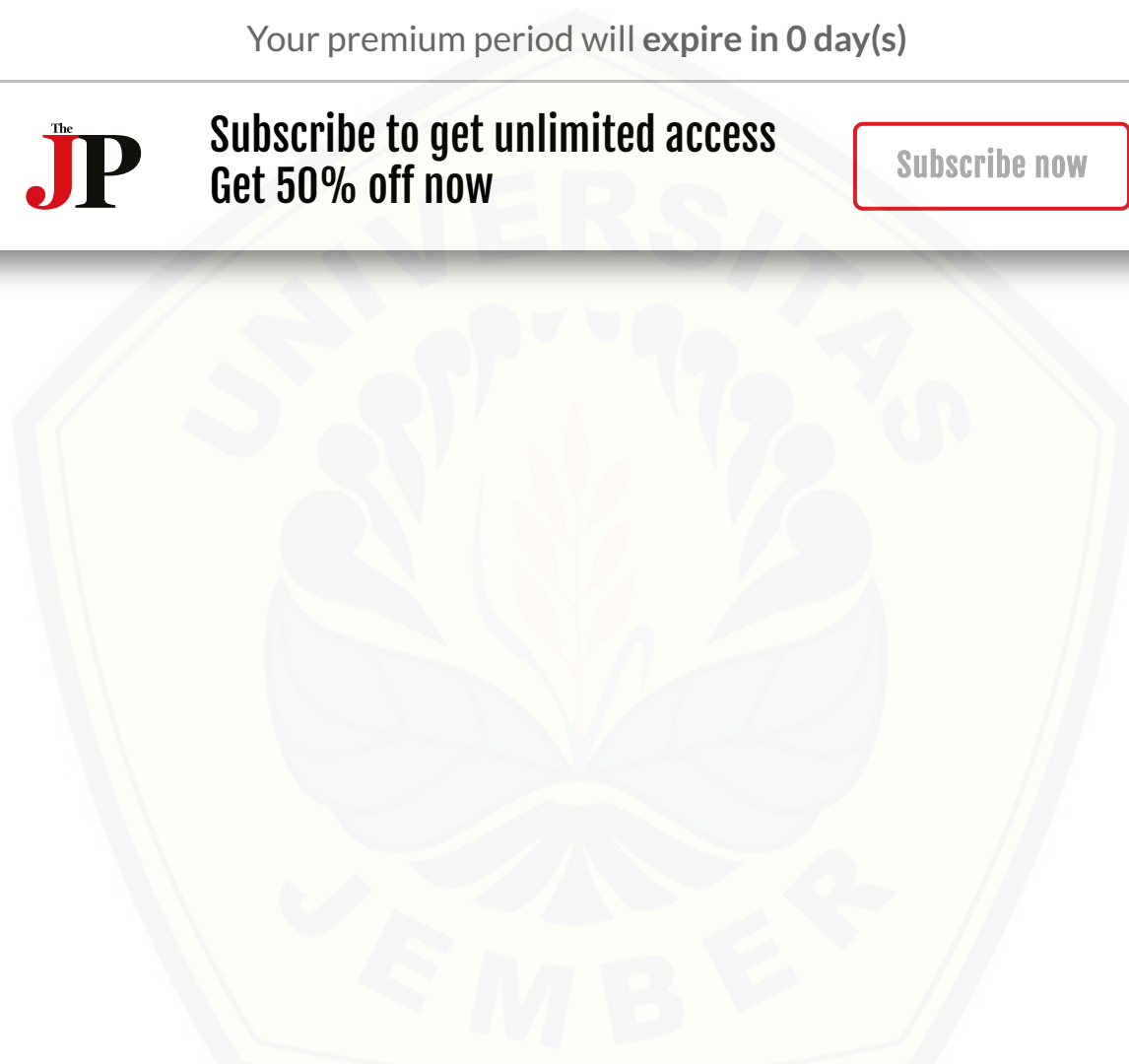
Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now



MOST VIEWED

MOST ENGAGING



- 2. **Maybank branch manager detained for allegedly stealing Rp 22 billion from accounts**

- 3. **Challenges of home learning during a pandemic through the eyes of a student**

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

- 7. **KPK to help UK's antigraft agency in probe into Bombardier-Garuda graft case**

- 8. **How to lose belly fat in seven days**

- 9. **Hundreds leave homes in anticipation of Merapi eruption**

- 10. **Banten man taken into police custody for uploading video of damaged road in his village**



Subscribe or log in to get unlimited access to premium content

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now



The Jakarta Post



email address

SUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER

NEWS

- BUSINESS
- POLITICS
- WORLD
- INDONESIA

PAPER EDITION

- TODAY'S PAPER
- JOBS
- TJP IMAGES
- COMMUNITY



- NEWS
- DESTINATIONS
- JAKPOST GUIDE TO

Your premium period will expire in 0 day(s)

close x



Subscribe to get unlimited access
Get 50% off now

Subscribe now

MULTIMEDIA

- VIDEO
- PHOTO
- DEEP LOOK
- PODCAST
- LIFE**

OUR PARTNERS

- About
- Cyber Media Guidelines
- Contact
- Advertise
- Paper Subscription
- Privacy Policy
- Discussion Guideline
- Term of Use

© 2016 - 2020 PT. Niskala Media Tenggara

