

## **Extremism in Indonesia**

### **What is the issue?**

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Recent actions of Indonesian government threaten the long-cherished unity in diversity of that nation.

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### **What are the problems in Indonesia?**

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- Southeast Asia's largest economy, Indonesia has serious religious extremism.

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- About 88% of Indonesians are Muslim and the archipelago's Chinese community has periodically been subject to massacres.

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- There is a strong growing vigilante Islamism.

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- Recently right wing extremist smashed up bars and disrupted concerts by Western pop musicians.

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- The space for non-Muslims to make personal comments in public or on social media is shrinking.

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### **What are the recent trails under blasphemy?**

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- According to Human Rights Watch, 16 people have been persecuted and sentenced for blasphemy in the last three years

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- Recently governor of Jakarta who is a Chinese Christian was imprisoned on charges of blasphemy.

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- Right-wing vigilante groups began alleging that he had committed blasphemy while on the campaign trail for his 2017 re-election.

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- The 'blasphemy' consisted of telling voters that they shouldn't be duped by religious leaders.

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- He stated that few religious leaders misuse the Koranic verse Al-Maidah 51 to justify claims that Muslims should not have non-Muslim leaders.

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**Source: The Hindu**

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