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1. Preface

i This Country of Origin Information (COI) Key Documents has been produced by Research, Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 10 November 2006.

ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.

iii For Home Office users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.

iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Indonesia is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the key documents listed.

v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.

vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional documents are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

Country of Origin Information Service
Home Office
Apollo House
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR9 3RR
United Kingdom

Email: cois@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office’s country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office’s country of origin information material. Information about the Panel’s work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.

It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected Home Office COI documents, but neither the
fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel’s work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

Email: apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.apci.org.uk
2. Background information on Indonesia

Full Country Name: The Republic of Indonesia
Area: Total area 1,919,443 sq. km
Population: 221 million (2003 est)
Capital City: Jakarta 13.23 million (2003 est)
People: Javanese 45%, Sundanese 14%, Madurese 7.5%, Coastal Malays 7.5%, Others 26%.
Languages: Bahasa Indonesia (official). There are about 583 languages, and dialects, but only 13 of these have over 1 million speakers.
Religion(s): Muslim 87%, Protestant 6%, Catholic 3%, Hindu 2%, Buddhist 1% Other 1%.
Currency: Rupiah
Major Political Parties: Party of the Functional Groups (Golkar), Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), Democrat Party (PD), United Development Party (PPP), Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), National Awakening Party (PKB), National Mandate Party (PAN), Crescent Star Party (PBB) – several other parties hold a small number of seats in parliament.
Government: Republic
Head of State: President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Deputy Head of State: Vice President Yusuf Kalla
Foreign Minister: Hassan Wirajuda

GEOGRAPHY

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile on Indonesia, updated 25 March 2006, noted:

“Indonesia is an equatorial archipelago of over 17,500 islands (6,000 inhabited) extending about 3,200 miles (5,150 kilometres) east to west and 1,250 miles (2,012 kilometres) north to south. It is divided into 32 provinces. The largest islands are Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), Sulawesi (Celebes) and Papua (the Indonesian half of New Guinea, sometimes known as Irian Jaya). Most of the smaller islands except Madura and Bali belong to larger groups. The largest of these are the Moluccas (Spice Islands) and Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sundas).” [4a]

RECENT HISTORY

Europa World Online, accessed 23 October 2006 stated that:

“Dutch occupation of Indonesia began in the 17th century and gradually extended over the whole archipelago. Nationalist opposition to colonial rule began in the early 20th century. During the Second World War the territory was occupied by Japanese forces from March 1942. On 17 August 1945, three days after the Japanese surrender, a group of nationalists proclaimed the independence of Indonesia. The first President of
the self-proclaimed republic was Dr Sukarno, a leader of the nationalist movement since the 1920s.” [1]

Europa further noted:

“Sukarno followed a policy of extreme nationalism, and his regime became increasingly dictatorial. Inflation and widespread corruption eventually provoked opposition to Sukarno’s regime; in September–October 1965 there was an abortive military coup, in which the Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI—Indonesian Communist Party) was strongly implicated. A mass slaughter of alleged PKI members and supporters ensued. In March 1966 Sukarno was forced to transfer emergency executive powers to military commanders, led by General Suharto, Chief of Staff of the Army, who outlawed the PKI. In February 1967 Sukarno transferred full power to Suharto.” [1]

The BBC Country Profile on Indonesia, updated 18 October 2006, reported:

“Suharto imposed authoritarian rule while allowing technocrats to run the economy with considerable success. But his policy of allowing the army to become involved in all levels of government down to village level fostered corruption. His "transmigration" programmes - which moved large numbers of landless farmers from Java to other parts of the country - fanned ethnic conflict. Suharto fell from power after widespread rioting in 1998.” [7a]

**RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The FCO Country Profile on Indonesia, updated 25 March 2006, noted:

“After the fall of President Soeharto [Suharto] in May 1998 Indonesia changed dramatically. Soeharto's Vice-President, B J Habibie, took over the presidency until October 1999, when Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) was elected. After only 21 months in office Wahid was impeached for alleged involvement in financial scandals and replaced by his Vice-President, Megawati Soekarnoputri, (the daughter of Indonesia’s first President, Soekarno) in July 2001. The transition was a peaceful one, which was a promising sign that Indonesia was coming to terms with its new democratic system. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Megawati’s former security minister, was elected President in September 2004 after defeating Megawati in a second-round election run-off. In his inauguration speech he pledged to stimulate the economy, fight corruption, promote peace in Aceh and Papua and prioritise education and health.

“On 26 December 2004, an earthquake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale occurred off the coast of North Sumatra, causing a Tsunami that affected several countries in South and South East Asia and Africa. In Indonesia the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra were worst hit, with over 126,500 people dead, 93,500 missing and large areas of coastline completely devastated. The Indonesian Government, together with NGOs and the international community worked together to ensure emergency relief, including food, temporary shelter and medical supplies, reached affected areas immediately. On 26 March, three months after the disaster, the Indonesian Government announced the end of this emergency phase and the beginning of the recovery phase for Aceh. In April 2005, the Government published its 'blueprint' for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Aceh. This 5 year plan takes into account the physical and social reconstruction of Aceh.
“The Tsunami has given added importance to the need for a negotiated peace in Aceh between the Indonesian Government and the separatist group, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Fighting between both sides has been ongoing since 1976. In January 2005, the Indonesian Government and GAM met in Helsinki in the first of a series of peace talks. These talks culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 15 August 2005. The MoU establishes an Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) comprised of monitors from the EU and five ASEAN countries.” [4a]

**ECONOMY**

GDP: US$226.8bn (2004, EIU)
GDP per head: US$1,103 (2004, EIU)
Annual Growth: 5.1% (2004, EIU)
Inflation: 6.1% (2004, EIU)
Major Industries: Oil, gas, mining (coal, minerals, metals), forestry, fishery, rubber, agriculture (especially coffee and rice)
Major trading partners: Japan, US, Singapore, EU, South Korea, China
Exchange rate: £1 = approximately 18,109 Rupiah (as at April 2005) US$1=9,440.
(FCO Country Profile, 25 March 2006) [4a]

On the economy of Indonesia, the FCO Country Profile dated 25 March 2006 further stated:

“President Yudhoyono has highlighted the need to lift economic growth and investment in order to create jobs as key priorities. The administration's other priority is to stamp out corruption, which significantly raises producers' costs and deters investment.

“During 2005 the Government enacted controversial reductions in the fuel price subsidy, resulting in a more than 100 per cent rise in the average cost of fuel. The Government has pledged to use the savings, an estimated 40 trillion rupiah ($4.6 billion), on priority areas including increased expenditure on education, health care and poverty alleviation.

“Indonesia's economy has stabilised in recent years. Real GDP grew by 5.1 percent in 2004, the fastest rate since the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. Structural reforms have made tremendous progress and Indonesia is on track to return 95% of the banking assets to the private sector. The budget deficit was reduced to 1.3% of GDP last year and may reduce further in 2005 as a result of the reduction in fuel subsidies. It is difficult to say what effect the Tsunami will have on the economy. The Government has estimated that the reconstruction of Aceh and North Sumatra will cost Rp 58.3 trillion (£3,410 million). Foreign aid and grants will offset some of this cost and the economy will also benefit this year from the Paris Club's debt deferral for Tsunami affected countries but the state budget will still have to absorb a substantial amount of the cost of reconstruction.” [4a]

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

The USSD 2005 Country Report on Human Rights in Indonesia stated “There were improvements in the human rights situation during the year and, although significant problems remained particularly in areas of separatist conflict, the end of the country's
long-running internal conflict in Aceh Province was a major step forward. The
government faced an intermittent, low intensity guerrilla conflict in Papua and West
Irian Jaya provinces; inter-communal violence in Maluku and Central Sulawesi
provinces; and terrorist bombings in various locations.” [2a] In their 2006 Annual Report
on Human Rights, the FCO noted “The overall human rights situation in Indonesia has
improved dramatically in the last few years. The country now has a flourishing free
media and an increasingly liberal and plural political environment.” [4a]

Amnesty International’s (AI) 2006 Annual Report, covering events from January –
December 2005, expressed the following concerns:

- Human rights violations in Papua
- Security legislation on terrorism
- Excessive use of force by police
- Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention
- Impunity of human rights violators
- Freedom of expression
- Use of the death penalty
- Violence against women
- Humanitarian issues in Aceh, post-tsunami. [11a]

Human Rights Watch World Report 2005 echoed some of AI’s concerns, and also
noted the domestic terrorist threat faced by Indonesia. Over 200 civilians have been
killed in bomb attacks, aimed at western interests, since 2002. Following international
pressure, the Indonesian government has begun addressing this threat through
criminal prosecutions and a slowly improving police force. [5a]
3. Index to key source documents

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<td>[2c] United States Department of State, Background Note: Indonesia, last updated May 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm</a></td>
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<td>[7a] BBC, Country Profile: Indonesia, last updated on 18 October 2006 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1260544.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1260544.stm</a></td>
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<td>[10a] Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook Indonesia, last updated on 1 November 2005 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/id.html#Econ">https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/id.html#Econ</a></td>
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<td><strong>HISTORY</strong></td>
<td>[1a] Europa World Online, Recent History (accessed on 24 October 2006) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a></td>
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<td>[26c]</td>
<td>Freedom House, Countries at the Crossroads 2006: Indonesia</td>
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**HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:**

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<td>[41] Indonesia Corruption Watch <a href="http://www.antikorupsi.org/eng/index.php">http://www.antikorupsi.org/eng/index.php</a></td>
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<td>[2c] United States Department of State, Background Note: Indonesia, last updated May 2006 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm</a></td>
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<td>FOREIGN REFUGEES</td>
<td>[6d] Department of Justice and Human Rights, Directorate General of Immigration, Procedures regarding aliens expressing their desire to seek asylum or refugee status, 30 September 2002 <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texts/vtx/rsd/rsddocview.pdf?tbl=RSDLEGAL&amp;id=3ed8eb5d4">http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texts/vtx/rsd/rsddocview.pdf?tbl=RSDLEGAL&amp;id=3ed8eb5d4</a></td>
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| [36a] Relocation Web: Indonesia – A religious conflict tamed, 11 January 2006 |
| http://www.reliefweb.int/rwb/RWB.NSF/db900SID/RMOI-6KX4SP?OpenDocument |

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA

| http://www.europaworld.com/pub/ |
| http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61609.htm |
| http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/01/18/indone12273.htm |
| [9a] Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Indonesia |
| http://www.cpj.org/regions_06/asia_06/asia_06.html#indonesia |
| [14a] Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders): Indonesia |
| http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=17353&Valider=OK |
| http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2006&country=6981 |

### HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS

| http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61609.htm |
| http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/10/06/indone14349.htm |
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| http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61609.htm |
| http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/4444d3c1a.html |
| [11a] Amnesty International (AI) report 2006: Indonesia, covering events from January to December 2005 |

This COI Key Documents contains the most up-to-date publicly available information as at 10 November 2006. Older source material has been included where it contains relevant information not available in more recent documents.
**HUMANITARIAN ISSUES CONT’D**

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**JUDICIARY**

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