INDONESIA

Religious intolerance and tension between religious groups have led to attacks on schools attended by minority Muslim sects and Christian schools in particular.[782]

CONTEXT

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, including a range of Muslim sects; there are also other religious denominations and many ethnic groups.[783]

There are demands for independence in some provinces and threats from an Al-Qaeda-linked network, Jemaah Islamiyah.[784] To combat this, the state has targeted religious militants.[785]

Net primary enrolment was 94 per cent, net secondary enrolment was 75 per cent, and gross tertiary enrolment was 27 per cent (2011). Adult literacy was 93 per cent (2009).[786]

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS

At least a dozen attacks on schools attended by minority Muslim sects – Ahmadiya, Shia and Sufi – and on Christian schools were reported by media and human rights sources in 2009-2012.

In 2011, during a mob attack on Ahmadiya followers in Cisalada, militants burned down homes and schools.[787]

On 15 February 2011, approximately 200 militants attacked an elite Shia boarding school for kindergarten to high school students in Bangil, East Java, throwing stones, smashing windows and destroying a guard post. The attackers left after the police fired warning shots, but the incident left nine students injured.[788] There were four more attacks on the school in 2010 and 2011. In one incident in 2010, bullets hit the windows of a female dormitory. In two incidents in February 2011, the female dormitory was stoned, damaging the ceiling.[789]

On 29 December 2011, Sunni militants attacked the Shia community in Nangkernang hamlet, reportedly burning a religious school (madrassa) in addition to several houses.[790]

Five Catholic schools were attacked by young Muslim extremists. One of the assaults, on St. Bellarminus Catholic School in Bekasi in May 2010, was reportedly in retaliation for perceived 'blasphemous' comments on a blog.[791] On 8 February 2011, a Catholic school complex was destroyed in Temanggung by an angry mob. Police believed the attack was the result of rumours spread by text messages that the defendant in a religious blasphemy case would be given a light sentence.[792] In January 2012, three Catholic schools in Yogyakarta, Central Java, were attacked, one by a group of 25 militant Muslims. An investigation found that the motive was an alleged anti-Islamic posting on Facebook, but that it had been posted by someone falsely claiming to be a student at one of the schools.[793]

ATTACKS ON SCHOOL STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND OTHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL

Two people were killed and at least six were injured in a Sunni attack on a group of students and teachers from a Shia boarding school in Bangil, East Java, as they returned to school via minibus after visiting their families in Sampang, East Java, on 26 August 2012. Around 500 machete-wielding men were involved in the attack.[794] Later that year, Sunni militants attacked a Sufi learning house in Jambo village, Bireuen regency, Aceh, and killed Teungku

Aiyub, the leader of the house, allegedly because he was a heretic. A student-cum-assistant also died in the attack.[795]

MILITARY USE OF SCHOOLS

A police raid in November 2012 on Darul Akhfiya School in Nganjuk, East Java, found rifles, ammunition and a cleaver. Police said they suspected the school was training Islamist militants.[796]

ATTACKS ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The director of the National Counter-terrorism Agency claimed in November 2010 that there had been an increase in religious extremism among university students and that a growing number of individuals engaged in terrorist activity were being indoctrinated on college campuses. A study by Islamic scholar Zulfi Mubarak from Malang Islamic State University said recruiters targeted science and engineering students to make explosive devices.[797]

In August 2012, one student was reportedly killed during a raid by police, army and counter-terrorism personnel on Cenderawasih University, Abepura. A further 11 students were reportedly held by police and some were tortured. One possible reason for the attack was that the students came from the same tribal group as many members of the non-violent campaigning group, the West Papua National Committee.[798]

ATTACKS ON EDUCATION IN 2013

Isolated incidents continued in 2013. According to a Human Rights Watch researcher, in March a Sunni mob destroyed the gates of the Al-Mujahadah Foundation, a Sufi madrassa in southern Aceh, while police reportedly stood by; in July, a dormitory of the same school was burned down and a month later its compound wall was reportedly destroyed.[799] The gates were destroyed on the same day that the South Aceh regency government ordered students to leave the facility in response to a ruling by Aceh's Ulama Consultative Council that its teachings were 'false'.[800] On 6 August, a petrol bomb was thrown at a Catholic high school in Jakarta, an act that may have been timed to coincide with the end of Ramadan.[801]

ENDNOTES INDONESIA

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