

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Religious Freedom Day

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region



Interfaith prayers service at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, in Los Angeles.

Each year, since 1993, the President declares January 16th to be Religious Freedom Day, and, as in 2005, calls upon Americans to “observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship.”

The day is the anniversary of the passage, in 1786, of the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom. Thomas Jefferson drafted the legislation and considered it one of his greatest achievements. It stopped the practice of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy, and it protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination.

The men who drafted the U.S. Constitution leaned heavily on Jefferson’s statute in establishing the First Amendment’s guarantee of religious freedom. Today, that protection is as important as ever.

Religious Freedom Day is not “celebrate-our-diversity day.” Freedom means the freedom to respectfully disagree. Religious Freedom Day is first and foremost a time to acknowledge one of our most important civil liberties.

Source: http://religiousfreedomday.com/images/RFD_Guidebook_2011.pdf

Read Presidential Proclamation for Religious Freedom Day 2011 at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/14/presidential-proclamation-religious-freedom-day>

On Religious Freedom Day, let us pledge our constant support to all who struggle against religious oppression and rededicate ourselves to fostering peace with those whose beliefs differ from our own.

-Barack Obama-

The American Religious Landscape



America has a diverse religious landscape, and immigration is transforming it even more. While most Americans are devout, they are tolerant of other peoples’ religious beliefs and are strikingly non dogmatic in the sense of not believing their own religion to be the only path to salvation, according to the Pew Research Center.

The Landscape Survey documents how immigration is adding even more diversity to the American religious quilt. For example, Muslims, roughly two-thirds of whom are immigrants, now account for roughly 0.6% of the U.S. adult population.

The complete survey is accessible at: <http://religions.pewforum.org/pdf/report-religious-landscape-study-full.pdf>

Disclaimer: Books, articles, and web-sites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep our the readers abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessary reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Inside this issue:

Religious Freedom Day	1
The American Religious Landscape	1
2010 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom—Indonesia	2
Religious Freedom Conditions in Indonesia	2
Articles & E-Publications	3
Books	4
About IRC	4

POKOK-POKOK PEMIKIRAN

Mempromosikan kebebasan beragama adalah elemen inti diplomasi Amerika Serikat.

Pandangan kebebasan beragama bukan hanya dimiliki oleh Amerika Serikat. Kebebasan beragama dimaklumkan dalam Deklarasi Universal Hak Asasi Manusia, yang diproklamasikan oleh PBB pada tanggal 10 Desember 1948. Selain itu, kebebasan beragama dilindungi oleh Konvensi International Mengenai Hak Sipil dan Hak Politik dan juga dijamin oleh undang-undang dan konstitusi di berbagai negara.

Mengingat hal di atas, maka Amerika Serikat mencoba untuk:

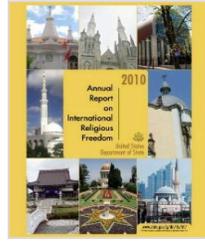
- Mempromosikan kebebasan beragama ke seluruh dunia sebagai hak asasi manusia yang fundamental dan sebagai sumber stabilitas di semua negara;
- Membantu implementasi kebebasan beragama di (negara-negara) demokrasi yang baru terbentuk;
- Membantu Lembaga Non-Pemerintah di bidang keagamaan dan hak asasi manusia mempromosikan kebebasan beragama;
- Mengidentifikasi dan mengumumkan rezim yang melakukan penganiayaan terhadap warganegaranya ataupun individu lainnya berdasarkan agama atau kepercayaan yang dianut.

Sources:

<http://1.usa.gov/bf13oK>

<http://1.usa.gov/9lg58j>

2010 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom—Indonesia



Undang-Undang Dasar memberikan kebebasan beragama. Secara umum, pemerintah menghormati kebebasan menjalankan ibadah enam agama yang resmi diakui; namun demikian pembatasan dari pemerintah yang terus berlangsung, khususnya agama yang tidak diakui dan sekte agama yang dianggap menyimpang dari agama yang diakui merupakan pengecualian dari pelaksanaan penghormatan kebebasan beragama.

Pemerintah telah melakukan penuntutan hukum terhadap beberapa orang yang bertanggung jawab atas kekerasan yang bernuansa agama di Sulawesi dan kepulauan Maluku. Pemerintah telah berhasil mencegah terjadinya beberapa tindakan anarkis selama bulan suci Ramadhan. Namun demikian, Pemerintah gagal mencegah tindak kekerasan dan diskriminasi terhadap kelompok agama oleh oknum-oknum tertentu serta gagal menghukum pelakunya. Beberapa kelompok Islam garis keras yang menentang pluralisme agama terlibat dalam penyerangan terhadap demonstran yang mendukung kebebasan beragama, dan terhadap berbagai tindakan lain yang mereka anggap bertentangan dengan nilai-nilai Islam. Meskipun Pemerintah pusat mengontrol hal-hal yang berkaitan dengan agama, pemerintah pusat tidak beru-

saha untuk membatalkan atau menganulir peraturan daerah yang membatasi hak yang sebenarnya dijamin oleh konstitusi.

Ada sejumlah laporan tentang kekerasan kolektif atau diskriminasi didasarkan pada afiliasi keagamaan, keyakinan, atau ibadah keagamaan. Beberapa kelompok Islam garis keras menggunakan cara-cara kekerasan dan intimidasi untuk menutup secara paksa setidaknya 28 gereja. Beberapa gereja tersebut masih tutup. Hanya sebagian kecil dari pelaku kekerasan terhadap kelompok minoritas agama di masa lalu yang diadili.

Pemerintah AS membahas masalah kebebasan beragama dengan Pemerintah Indonesia dan pemimpin masyarakat madani sebagai bagian dari kebijakan menyeluruhnya untuk memajukan hak-hak azasi manusia. Kedubes menggalakkan kebebasan beragama dan toleransi melalui program pertukaran dan pengembangan masyarakat madani. Selain itu, Kedutaan AS di Jakarta juga mensponsori kegiatan Indonesia-U.S Interfaith Dialogue di Jakarta.

Laporan selengkapnya bisa diakses di: <http://bit.ly/fbhEOE>

English version is available at: <http://1.usa.gov/frXcA2>

Annual Report of the U.S Commission on International Religious Freedom Religious Freedom Conditions in Indonesia in 2010: Covering April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010



Indonesia's transition to democracy since 1998 has contributed to an overall improvement in conditions for human rights in the country. The majority of Indonesia's diverse religious communities operate openly and with few restrictions, and there are vibrant public discussions among politicians, religious leaders, and civil society about the role of religion in political life. The government of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has taken positive steps to address terrorism and past sectarian violence in the regions of Ambon and Central Sulawesi, to bring peace to the region of Aceh, and to build popular support for democracy. However, during his presidency, religious minorities have experienced harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and even violence perpetuated by groups espousing intolerance and extremism un-

der the banner of Islamic orthodoxy. The activities of some extremist groups are sometimes tolerated by segments of the Indonesian government. In addition, despite legal protections for religious freedom, national decrees and provincial laws have been used to restrict rather than advance the freedom of religion and belief. [...]. Indonesia has a tradition of religious tolerance and pluralism. Nevertheless, religious radicalism and extremism have found converts in Indonesia, leading to sectarian violence, terrorism, and religious freedom violations. Indonesians have rejected extremism at the polls, but it often goes unchallenged by many political, civic, and religious leaders. In the past year, extremist groups have forcibly closed places of worship belonging to religious minorities, sometimes with the acquiescence of local or provincial officials.

Read more at: <http://www.uscirf.gov/images/ar2010/indonesia2010.pdf>

ARTICLES & E-PUBLICATIONS

Jakarta Journo: SBY's Legacy Soiled On Freedom of Faith. By: Armando Siahaan. *Jakarta Globe*, March 20, 2011.
 President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will be remembered for a lot of things, but being a bastion of pluralism is definitely not one of them. Just look at the recent spate of religious violence – chaos left nearly unchecked by the national government, which seems afraid to touch issues such as the Ahmadiyah with a 10-foot pole.
 Read more at: <http://bit.ly/eNG3si>

Intolerant Indonesia. By: Philip Shiskin. *Newsweek International*, Feb 21, 2011.
 Indonesia has long been known for its live-and-let-live religious ethos,...however over the past decade, Indonesia's religious compact has frayed, strained by the same fundamentalist forces that have long plagued other parts of the Muslim world. The struggle in Indonesia reflects the global debate within Islam, pitting a loud, radical fringe against a more liberal camp that may be larger but has shown less desire to shout. A recent string of violent episodes has raised the question: will Indonesia remain liberal?.
 Read more at: <http://bit.ly/fiwN8p>

Religious Freedom a Core Element of U.S. Foreign Policy. By : Jane Morse. *America.gov*, November 17, 2010
 Promoting religious freedom is a core element of U.S. diplomacy, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at the November 17 release of the 2010 Annual Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom.
 The purpose of the report, Clinton said, is not to pass judgment, but to provide useful information in the effort to secure the basic human right to believe, or not to believe, and practice, or not practice, the religion of one's personal choice.
 Read more: <http://1.usa.gov/f7JuK4>

"Unlikely Partners": Protect Religious Freedom.
 By: W. Cole Durham Jr. *America.gov*, October 28, 2010
 In a democracy, different religious groups often coexist side by side. *America.gov* asked religious leaders and scholars what sharing space means to them.
 Read more: <http://1.usa.gov/cm17wj>

Obama Says Mosque Upholds Principle of Equal Treatment. By: Sheryl Gay Stolberg. *New York Times*, August 14, 2010
 President Obama said that in defending the right of Muslims to build a community center and mosque near Ground Zero, he "was not commenting" on "the wisdom" of that particular pro-

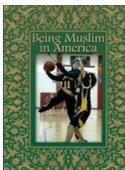
ject, but rather trying to uphold the broader principle that government should "treat everybody equally" regardless of religion. He further said "this is America, and our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakable. The principle that people of all faiths are welcome in this country, and will not be treated differently by their government, is essential to who we are."
 Read more at: <http://nyti.ms/dsib5x>

Religious Freedom Day Marks American Tradition of Good Will. By: Michael Jay Friedman. *America.gov*, January 15, 2009
 Americans are a religious people. A solid majority pray every day and nearly half attend religious services at least weekly – but, consistent with principles established even before the United States secured its independence, they typically view faith as a freedom reserved to individuals, regardless of their particular beliefs, and one protected from government interference.
 Read more at: <http://1.usa.gov/f7xfvg>

Religious Freedom Laws Help Create Culture of Tolerance. By: Louise Fenner. *America.gov*, August 25, 2008
 An openness to immigration and laws protecting religious freedom helped create the conditions for religious tolerance in the United States, says an expert on immigration, religion and urban issues in America who has researched a neighborhood in New York City he calls "perhaps the most extreme case of religious pluralism in the world."
 Read more: <http://1.usa.gov/fq6XLX>



eJournal: Freedom of Faith By: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs. August 2008.
 The principle of religious freedom is a cherished right in the United States, one that has historical roots older than the formation of the nation itself.
 Read more at : <http://1.usa.gov/eNSmL>



eJournal: Being Muslim in America By: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs. March 2009.
 With freedom, faith, and hard work, each successive wave of immigrants has added its distinctive contributions to the American story. And today, this story is the Muslim-American story too. Read more at: <http://1.usa.gov/apgVoN>

MORE RESOURCES

- **Feature-Birthplace of America's Religious Freedom**
<http://1.usa.gov/fyi0q8>
- **Feature-Protecting Religious Freedom without Limiting Free Speech**
<http://1.usa.gov/4WkSxw>
- **Feature- Diversity: Offering a Place for Everyone.**
<http://1.usa.gov/nYcBa>
- **Photo Gallery-The American Religious Landscape.**
 America has a diverse religious landscape, and immigration is transforming it even more.
<http://1.usa.gov/i3Jicx>
- **Video-Land Called Paradise**
 In December 2007, over 2,000 American Muslims were asked what they would wish to say to the rest of the world. Find their answers in this music video:
<http://1.usa.gov/d9Eb6s>

HIGHLIGHTS

Washington Cites Importance of Religious Freedom
 George Washington, one of the most religious of the founders of the United States, on his letter dated November 16, 1782, assured the Dutch Reformed ministers of Kingston, New York, that "Convinced that our Religious Liberties were as essential as our Civil, my endeavours have never been wanting to encourage and promote the one, while I have been contending for the other."
 Digital collection of this manuscript is accessible through Library of Congress site at: <http://1.usa.gov/hr81Cj>

This information package is compiled by the Information Resource Center (IRC), Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta.

For all IRC information products, including this info package are available online at:
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct.html>

Contact Info:

Information Resource Center (IRC)

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Address:

Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

Tel.: (021) 350-8467

Fax.: (021) 350-8466

Email: ircjakarta@state.gov

Website: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

Walk-in Visitors (by appointment only):

Monday to Friday; from 07:30 to 16:00

We are closed on US holidays and Indonesian holidays. Check those holidays here: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/holidays.html>.

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, cover such topic as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues.

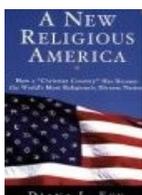
The IRC collection includes an up-to-date reference collection, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online databases.

For details on reference and periodical collections, please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>.

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use print and periodical collections as well as online databases and the Internet to retrieve the information that you need quickly, conveniently, and free of charge. Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal research assistance.

BOOKS

These books are available at American Corner UIN Syarif Hidayatullah. Silakan hubungi nomor telepon: 7493175, atau email ke: amcor_uin@yahoo.com, untuk informasi lebih lanjut. Cek juga website mereka di:
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/ac-uin-jakarta.html>



Amerika Baru yang Religius: Bagaimana Sebuah "Negara Kristen" Berubah Menjadi Negara Dengan Agama Paling Beragam di Dunia. Pengarang: Diana L.Eck. (Terjemahan dari: A New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" Has Become the World Religiously Diverse Nation). Jakarta: Pustaka Sinar Harapan & Kedutaan Besar AS, 2005.

Sang pengarang, seorang Profesor ilmu perbandingan agama di Universitas Harvard memaparkan perkembangan agama Hindu, Budha, dan Islam di Amerika Serikat terutama sejak tahun 1965 dan bagaimana situasi ini mempengaruhi Amerika.

Encyclopedia of American Religious History (2 Volumes), The. Facts on File, 2001.

A two-volume set that outlines the varied and numerous philosophies, personalities, social issues, and cultural history of religious practices within this country

First Liberty: America's Foundation in Religious Freedom, The. Author: William Lee Miller. Washington D.C: Georgetown University Press, 2003.

At a time when the concept of religion-based politics has taken on new and sometimes ominous tones-even within the United States-it is not only right, but also urgently necessary that William Lee Miller revisit his profound exploration of the place of religious liberty and church and state in America.

Religion And Politics In The United States. Author: Kenneth D. Wald. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2003.

A comprehensive guide to the political mobilization of religious organizations, their impact at the ballot box, and their influence on the framing of national agendas

Religion and Immigration: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Experiences in the United States. Author: John L. Esposito. AltaMira Press,

2003.

Since its inception, the United States has defined itself as a nation of immigrants and a land of religious freedom. But following September 11, 2001 American openness to immigrants and openness to other beliefs have come into question. In a timely manner, Religion and Immigration provides comparative perspectives on Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and Jews entering the American scene.

Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today, The. Authors: Edwin S. Gaustad and Leigh Schmidt. Harper One, 2002.

This work is a standard text for American religious history. The book covers the multifaceted story of religion in the United States, such as: pluralism, religious practices, and spiritual seeking, as well as the direct connection of religion to social and political struggle.

"The United States government must not undertake to run the Churches. When an individual, in the Church or out of it, becomes dangerous to the public interest he must be checked." - Abraham Lincoln