



RFI RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INSTITUTE | **WEBINAR | LAUNCH OF RFI'S INDONESIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LANDSCAPE REPORT: *Is Indonesia Still a Model of Religious Pluralism and Tolerance?***

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020, 10 AM EDT | FACEBOOK
WITH HIS EXCELLENCY M. TITO KARNAVIAN, *Minister of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia*

The banner features three photographs: a woman in a purple hijab, a woman in a colorful traditional headdress, and an elderly man in a batik shirt.

WEBINAR

LAUNCH OF RFI'S INDONESIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LANDSCAPE REPORT: IS INDONESIA STILL A MODEL OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND TOLERANCE?

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, its third largest democracy, and its fourth most populous country. It is among the most successful democracies in the Islamic world.

Despite the existence of major challenges to religious freedom in Indonesia, it is nevertheless home to powerful actors that are systematically and institutionally maneuvering to strengthen the prospects for religious liberty in Indonesia and beyond.

In a region where much wrong is being perpetrated by many governments and non-state actors, Indonesia appears to be moving in the right direction. But is it still a model for religious pluralism and tolerance?

INDONESIA LANDSCAPE REPORT

WHEN AND WHERE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 10:00 AM EDT

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LAUNCH OF RFI'S INDONESIA
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LANDSCAPE REPORT:

*Is Indonesia still a model of religious
pluralism and tolerance?*

FEATURING

Moderator

- **Timothy S. Shah, Ph.D.**, Vice-President for Strategy and International Research and Director, South and Southeast Asia Action Team, Religious Freedom Institute

Panelists:

- **His Excellency M. Tito Karnavian**, Minister of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia
- **Alissa Qotrunnada Munawaroh Wahid**, Founder and National Coordinator, Gusdurian Network Indonesia
- **Robert Hefner, Ph.D.**, Professor of Global Affairs and Anthropology, Pardee School of Global Affairs, Boston University
- **Mustafa Akyol**, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity

BIOS

H. Muhammad Tito Karnavian, Ph.D., has served as Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia since 2019. From 2016 until his current appointment, Minister Karnavian served as Chief of Indonesian National Police. From 1999 - 2016, Minister Karnavian served in several law enforcement and security leadership positions in Indonesia. In addition to his extensive government service, Minister Karnavian holds a Ph.D. in Strategic Studies with interest on Terrorism and Islamist Radicalization at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (2013) with predicate Magna Cum Laude. He has also authored several books at the intersection of politics, policing, and security policy.





Alissa Qotrunnada Munawaroh Wahid is the Founder and National Coordinator for Gusdurian Network Indonesia (GNI) addressing issues of democracy, diversity, and empowerment. Since 2011 she has quickly grown the community of social activists into the thousands, strengthening the landscape for a strong civil society in Indonesia and expanding representation to six countries. Founded on the principles of Wahid’s father, the late Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid “Gus Dur”, GNI aims to strengthen interfaith understanding, promote individual resilience, strengthen a culture of respect and advocate for rights through public policy. She is a trained psychologist and leads many grassroots initiatives, speaks to thousands of people annually, and writes monthly for *Kompas Daily*. Ibu Wahid also serves as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ambassador of Indonesian

Ministry of National Development Planning.

Robert Hefner, Ph.D. is a professor of Global Affairs and Anthropology at the Pardee School of Global Affairs at Boston University. He was the associate director and then director of the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA) at Boston University from 1986-2017. During his tenure, he directed 25 research projects and organized 22 international conferences on religion, modernity, and world affairs, with a special focus on Islam and Christianity. He has authored or edited 20 books on related topics, many related to his research in Indonesia. From 2009 to 2010, Hefner served as the elected president of the Association for Asian Studies. From 2008 to 2009, he was invited by Stanford University and the National University of Singapore to be the first Lee Kong Chian Fellow in Southeast Asian Studies.





Mustafa Akyol is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, where he focuses on the intersection of public policy, Islam, and modernity. A Turkish journalist and author, he worked for more than a decade as an opinion columnist for *Hurriyet Daily News*, and the Middle-East focused [Al-Monitor.com](#). Since 2013, he also has been a [contributing opinion writer for the New York Times](#). Akyol is the author of *Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty* [praised](#) by *The Financial Times* as “a forthright and elegant Muslim defense of freedom.”

Timothy S. Shah, Ph.D. serves as Vice President for Strategy and International Research and the Director of the South and Southeast Asia Action Team of the Religious Freedom Institute. He serves as non-resident Research Professor of Government at Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion. Until mid-2018, he served as Director for International Research at the Religious Freedom Research Project at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. Shah is author and editor of numerous books, including, *Even if There is No God: Hugo Grotius and the Secular Foundations of Modern Political Liberalism* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2021); *Religious Freedom: Why Now? Defending an Embattled Human Right* (Witherspoon Institute, 2012); and, with Monica Duffy Toft and Daniel Philpott, *God's Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2011). His articles on religion, religious freedom, and global politics, in history and in the contemporary world, have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, the *Journal of Democracy*, the *Review of Politics*, *Fides et Historia*, and elsewhere.



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