

## **Circle: Indonesia: Faces change corruption remains**

- ◆ After Wahid came to power the Ummah in Indonesia were led to believe that Democracy was the solution to these problems. His policies of weakening the Army and playing one political side off against another proved to be the very strategy that would work against him.
- ◆ The Ummah must learn that democracy cannot and will not lead to the solving of our problems. Our leaders fight only to secure their seats in office. Not to secure the interests of the Ummah. This is the nature of democratic rule in our lands. The interests of the ummah can only be secured by that which the ummah hold in their hearts – the Islamic aqeeda. Allah (swt) taught us what to rule by – Islam.

**”And rule between them with what Allah has revealed” (TMQ Surah Al Maidah 48)**

- ◆ The Problems in Indonesia will not be solved now that Megawati has come to power, it is the system that needs to be replaced on only individual rulers. The faces change, the corruption remains. Megawati is Indonesia’s first female leader, the Prophet (saw) said, **“People who appoint a woman as their leader will never succeed.”**
- ◆ To solve the problems of Indonesia, deal with the rampant economic problems and stop the disintegration of Indonesia we need to remove the Kufr system in Indonesia and replace it with the Khilafah state. The role of the leader in the Khilafah and his policies are clear. The Khalifah does not rule by what he feels is right. Nor by what the international community feel is right. The ruling structure emanates from the aqeeda. The policies emanate from the aqeeda. And – the army’s role is clear: to implement the foreign policy of the state – Jihad. The problems in Indonesia are exemplary of a system devoid of focus.

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## **Reference**

### ***INDONESIA – Tragedy in the Archipelago***

Nineteen months after the people propelled Wahid into power, the parliament is trying to force him out.

The Ummah in Indonesia were led to believe that Democracy was the solution to these problems. His policies of weakening the Army and playing one political side off against another proved to be the very strategy that would work against him today. The political parties are stacking up against him - parliament has voted to hold an impeachment hearing against him on August 1st 2001 over claims of corruption and incompetence. Even the People's Consultative Assembly (known as the MPR) cannot act for him - most factions in the political arena have already called for him to step down.

The formerly strong army now lacks the incentive to support him. His attempts to impose emergency rule have fallen flat. This would have given him the power to dissolve government. Neither his cabinet nor the military would support it. So instead – he has sacked his security chief and three other cabinet ministers, in a desperate attempt to avoid the enemy within.

Although cleared of corruption allegations, the matter has done nothing but help in destabilising his position. This is despite his vow to fight corruption in his state! The president had been trying to win over Mrs Megawati with a last-minute offer of a power-sharing deal, but it seems she has rejected it.

It may be asked why doesn't Mr. Wahid – head of Indonesia's largest Muslim party (The Nahdatul Ulama) refer to Islam to solve the problems of the state? Why does he speak of Islam on the one hand,

yet resort to the compromise and corruption of kufr policies to secure his office on the other?

The ummah must learn that democracy cannot and will not lead to the solving of our problems. Our leaders fight only to secure their seats in office. Not to secure the interests of the Ummah. This is the nature of democratic rule in our lands. The interests of the ummah can only be secured by that which the ummah hold in their hearts – the Islamic aqeeda. Allah (swt) taught us what to rule by – Islam.

**”And rule between them with what Allah has revealed” (TMQ Surah Al Maidah 48)**

The Khalifah state will never see such in fighting! The role of the leader and his policies are clear. The Khalifah does not rule by what he feels is right. Nor by what the international community feel is right. The ruling structure emanates from the aqeeda. The policies emanate from the aqeeda. And – the army’s role is clear: to implement the foreign policy of the state – Jihad. The problems in Indonesia are exemplary of a system devoid of focus. Why is it that we never see such turmoil in the West? Because the systems implemented in society emanate from their viewpoint on life. This gives the state focus. The US for example firmly adheres to Capitalism. This is in line with its view on life - that man makes the laws for mankind. In Islam, our aqeeda tells us that Allah (swt) is sovereign.

However, we don’t see this carried through into the ruling system – or any other system in society. So there is a conflict between what the Ummah hold in terms of their view about life, and what they see implemented in the society around them. This is a formula for frustration! NOT only just in Indonesia.

### **Unity in diversity?**

The success of the Kuffar in implementing their wicked conspiracies by separating East Timor from Indonesia and establishing a Christian entity in it brought distress to the Muslim ummah of Indonesia. It left the door wide open to yet more treachery and plots against the unity of the Indonesian lands. It will break it up into provinces and statelets that are unable to protect themselves from the big greedy powers like America and others. Separatist problems have been mounting: A million people have been displaced from homes and many thousands killed in religious and separatist struggles that have threatened the nations unity. Indonesia’s national motto is "Bhinneka tunggal" or "unity in diversity". It was coined by the leaders of the new Republic proclaimed in 1945.

Instead of giving strict orders to bury the treachery and to root out the affliction, Wahid announced his approval of a referendum and his acceptance of the results whatever they may be! And he demanded the army to withdraw from the provinces instead of strengthening it with forces, which are able to impose unity on the country, a matter that is obligatory on every Muslim, to protect and punish anyone who has allowed himself to be seduced by the conspiracy against it.

In the Moluccus, many thousands of people have been slaughtered in violence. In Borneo, ethnic tension has resulted in yet further killings and displacements. There has also been separatist fighting in some provinces - in mineral-rich Aceh in the west and Irian Jaya in the east. "The enormous archipelago appears to be fraying at the edges", according to one BBC journalist.

We are reminded of our obligation to stay united through a common goal

**“And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided among yourselves” (TMQ Surah Al-Imran 103)**

### **Economic decline**

Compounding these problems are the economic problems that hound Indonesia. The country's problems have reached a head, following news that the International Monetary Fund has decided to withhold a \$400m loan. Last week, the IMF officials denied Indonesia the seal of approval from the international community.

This has resulted in a further lack of confidence by investors. \$9Billion left the country in foreign capital during 2000 and the World Bank believes this will rise!

The Rupiah has spiralled as a result. The Central bank has subsequently raised interest rates to avoid massive inflation. However, this has increased the interest on loans of \$72Billion.

The government wants to raise money from the domestic market by issuing bonds but the IMF has advised the government to "exclude such financing", and would prefer the government to cut expenditure on such as fuel subsidies! The last time this happened in 1999 – Suharto had to resign due to riots! AGAIN – it is the ummah that suffers!

Here's the gut-wrenching fact - Indonesia is rich in resources! They weren't called the 'spice islands' for nothing. Cloves, nutmeg and pepper are the most important spices produced in the Indonesian archipelago. Yet, despite this – we see a frail economy.

Indonesia is also an oil producer, a member of OPEC. It has two advantages over some of its fellow OPEC members. First, most of output consists of light, low-sulphur crude's, which command a premium over most of the crude produced in the Middle East. Second, it is closer to its two main markets (Japan and the West Coast of the US). Indonesia has 5 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. The country produces 1.4-1.5 million barrels of oil a day, and exports 481,000 million barrels per day by 2000 estimates. Refining capabilities, however, lag oil production in Indonesia. The country's eight refineries have a capacity of just less than one million barrels per day. Natural gas also provides a large chunk of Indonesia's income. The DOE reports that Indonesia has 42.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas. Before ExxonMobil shut down three of its five gas fields in Indonesia, liquefied natural gas brought in \$100 million a month with Japan and South Korea its main customers, according to Agence France Presse. Gas and oil exports combined totalled more than \$1 billion per month, reported Statistics Indonesia.

Other natural resources in Indonesia include coal reserves. Recoverable reserves amount to 5 billion short tons: 85 percent lignite, 15 percent anthracite. The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, in its Coal Report October 2000, reported that Indonesia exported 55.2 million metric tons (MT) in 1999, while the country used 18.8 million MT for domestic use.

Indonesia is a clear example of how resources alone do not make a nation. The ideas carried, in any nation, are the greatest fortune the nation gains in her life. If the ideas are correct, then prosperity will come. Look to history how the Islamic state was so prosperous. The spread of the deen throughout much of the world was not achieved by a pauper state! It required wealth. Without clear ideas, a nation will never be focused.

This is the reality of an ummah divided! Allah (swt) has blessed the ummah with resources in abundance, yet the policies of the leaders in our lands to stay divided, and to implement economic reforms to please the IMF have led to a weakening of the economy, and misery for the Ummah. The clear focus will only come when the ummah implements a ruling based upon its aqeeda.

We call upon the ummah in Indonesia to abandon its search for a stable democratic rule. Even if Megawati comes to power in August, the ummah will continue to suffer as a result of the IMF and World Bank conditions imposed. The only solution for the problems of Indonesia, and indeed, the problems of the Muslim Ummah is that of the true system of governing – the Khilafah. This is the only system that agrees with our aqeeda. It is the only system that will enable our countries to flourish in wealth and bring the poor out of poverty and enable to eat their daily bread without the fear of whether they'll be able to afford it tomorrow.

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### ***Indonesia another Asian nation to be seduced by family name***

JAKARTA: Megawati Sukarnoputri's rise to Indonesia's presidency 34 years after her charismatic father was forced from power underscores the importance of family names in Asian politics, analysts said Tuesday.

With the masses yearning for the return of a leader like Indonesia's legendary founding president, Sukarno, Megawati used her father's image to great advantage to be secure the presidency on Monday. "It was her main capital as a politician," Mochtar Buchori, an academic and executive of her People's Democratic Party of Struggle, told AFP.

"If she was not the daughter of Sukarno, I don't think she would have reached as far." Megawati has been criticised for lacking political savvy and being too remote from the people she now rules -- a far cry from her father who enthralled the nation with his fierce, witty speeches laced with nationalism and pride as he led the country after its independence from Dutch colonial masters.

But Buchori said millions of Indonesians were ignoring the differences in leadership styles between father and daughter because they desperately wanted a ruler of Sukarno's ilk, and Megawati's parentage made her the best choice.

Many other leaders in Asia have risen to power thanks in part to their family names. In the Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is the daughter of Diosdado Macapagal, the country's president between 1961 and 1965. And Cory Aquino was able to use the passions aroused by the 1983 political assassination of her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, to overthrow Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos three years later.

The Gandhi-Nehru dynasty is one of the most famous in Asia, having given India three prime ministers. The family's fame began when Jawaharlal Nehru joined the Congress party as a protege of independence hero Mahatma Gandhi and became India's first prime minister after independence in 1947.

Nehru's daughter, Indira, married Feroze Gandhi (no relation to the Mahatma) and became prime minister in 1967. Their son, Rajiv, a commercial pilot, then entered politics and led the country after Indira was assassinated in 1984.

Rajiv was himself assassinated in 1991 and the mantle of the Gandhi dynasty was taken up by his Italian-born wife Sonia, currently president of the Congress party and parliamentary opposition leader.

Similar tales of tragedy and the struggle of families determined to stay in power reach across Asia -- from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan on the sub continent to Myanmar and Cambodia in the south east. Regional political analyst Alan Dupont believes a lack of education and unsophisticated electorates in Asia are vital factors in ensuring families stay in, or return to, power.

**Source:** The News