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Civil Society Initiatives vs. Government Repression: The Case of Indonesia | TUES NOV 3 – INTS 1111 – 4-6PM

Prof. Baskara Wardaya



Human rights activists hold a placard reading 'Military is a Killer of Women' during Aksi Kamisan, or Thursday's Protest, in front of the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on March 20, 2025. Afriadi Hikmal/NurPhoto via Reuters

Join Prof Baskara Wardaya, SJ (Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia and a former Fulbright Visiting Prof at UCR 2013-14) for a conversation about Indonesia today and conflicts between civil society organizations and the government, especially the Indonesian military. Like other Southeast Asian nations, Indonesia's post-colonial period was marked by socio-political strife. In 1965-66, an anti-communist purge caused the death and imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of Indonesians and the installation of a military-centered government. Succeeding goverments tried to bury this history of mass violence, but many civil society organizations offer alternative narratives and reconciliation initiatives. Studying supression and civil society initiatives since the 1965 purge is one way to open doors for collaborative research and human rights activism.



Baskara T. Wardaya holds a master's and PhD in History from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 2004-2005 he conducted a Fulbright postdoctoral research program in the US on US-Indonesian relations. In 2011-2012 he was awarded another Fulbright grant to teach at the University of California-Riverside. In 2022 he held the Francis Wade Chair and taught the history of Southeast Asia at Marquette University, Milwaukee. Among his works are *Chicago, Chicago* (2006), *Cold War Shadow* (2007); *Truth Will Out* (2013); *Luka Bangsa, Luka Kita (2013); Beyond Borders (2017)*; *Keeping Hope (2017)*; *Memori Genosida* (2021) dan *Awan Merah* (2023). He now works for PRAKSIS (Jesuit Center for Research and Advocacy), Jakarta, Indonesia.