

The Spread of Shiism in Indonesia

Numbering around 6 million, Shia Muslims form under 3% of Indonesia's population. Shiism in Indonesia is rising rapidly, especially after the Iranian Revolution, as many translations were made from Shiite texts and books. A further indication of Shiism in Indonesia is the growth of some 40 institutions in large Indonesian cities like Jakarta, Bagor, Bandung, Pontianak, and Banjarmasin. All of which are devoted to missionary and educational activities. One of the leading institutions is Muntadzar Foundation which has now over 400 members. Its activities are not confined to studying Shiites Fiqh but also included education from kindergarten all the way up to senior levels.



Khomeini greeting a member of the Indonesian Shiaa

Instrumental to the development of these institutions are the highly educated and intellectual Indonesian alumni of universities in Qum, Iran such as Jalaluddin Rakhmat and Husein Shahab. The Iranian government plays a large role in this, through funding the translation of Shia books to Indonesian, and providing college scholarships to 500 Indonesian students, yearly to study in Qum, Iran.

We hope that this article serves as a wake up call to concerned Muslims, who think that the Shias headed by Iran are pacifist in nature or are not trying to propagate their kufr. The spread of Shiism is not only a problem in Indonesia or South East Asia, but rather it's a worldwide problem. It is time that the Muslims and their scholars woke up and fought back this hidden threat to our religion both in the arena of ideas and media and on the battlefield.