Christianity and Religious Freedom in the World's Largest Muslim Nation

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An international team of Muslim and Christian scholars headed by Zainal Bagir and Robert Hefner finds that Christians in Indonesia—the world’s largest Muslim country—are making constructive political contributions despite rising threats to their freedom and security. Christians comprise nearly ten percent of Indonesia's population, and they have made crucial contributions to its culture, education, and independence struggle. However, major Christian leaders interviewed in 2013 argue that conditions for Christians have deteriorated since Suharto's fall 15 years ago. Christians report more frequent attacks on churches and schools as well as efforts to marginalize them socially and politically. In this challenging climate, Christians continue to participate in Indonesia’s formal framework of cooperation between the government and religious institutions, but they are also pressing authorities to do more to guarantee their freedom and security.