

COUNTRY ANALYSES

INDONESIA

Sources

Seven sources in English and Arabic were examined from among 34 originally identified. Most of the online newspapers and magazines in Indonesia are either in Bahasa Indonesian, English or Arabic.¹ The main sources reviewed were *The Jakarta Post* (the largest English daily newspaper in Indonesia), *Indonesia Exchange* (English and Bahasa Indonesian), *The Jakarta Eye*, *Sabili* and *Al-Mokhtsar* (two Arabic magazines), *Inside Indonesia*, and *East Timor Action* (two quarterly magazines).

References to Canada

Having examined each of the online sources over a 3-month period, Canada was mentioned in 46 news articles and editorials but never once mentioned in the headlines, nor had any full articles devoted to it. Throughout this 3-month period, Canada was referred to in articles relating to terrorism, religion, Islamic banking, the environment, the Kyoto Protocol, SARS, HIV/AIDS, the WHO, sports, the movie production industry, the WTO, ASEAN, and the global economy.

Findings in the Indonesian online press

Many Indonesian religious leaders were involved in the new campaign for moderation and religious tolerance. This new trend was highlighted when *The Jakarta Post* gave prominence to a participation of Buddhist monks from Canada in a peace prayer ceremony attended by 350 Buddhist male and female monks from 31 countries in addition to a number of prominent Indonesian religious leaders.²

Canada was described as a “fake federation” by Johan Galtung, founder of the Transcend International Organization and an international peace advocate. When asked by *The Jakarta Post*: “Is the United States a good example of a federation?” He replied: “No, it's divided mechanically. It's a fake federation like Canada and Australia.”³

Canada was frequently mentioned in editorials on the global economy and the WTO. Canada was mentioned when the G20 finance ministers launched their two-day meeting in Mexico in October 2003. There was also a reference to Canada in an editorial in *The Jakarta Post* that underlined Indonesia's need for fair trade, investment, and a need to avoid new debts in the wake

¹Bahasa Indonesian sources were not reviewed.

² *The Jakarta Post*, December 16, 2003

³ *The Jakarta Post*, October 31, 2003