

# PhD Completion Seminar

## Presentation by PhD Candidate: Jeremy Kingsley

Supervisors: Tim Lindsey and Abdullah Saeed

### Weak State – Strong Communities? Tuan Guru, Tradition and Peace-Building in Lombok, Indonesia

This presentation reflects on the key arguments considered in my doctoral thesis, which focuses on peace-building and dispute resolution processes on the eastern Indonesian island of Lombok. Like many other parts of Indonesia, Lombok has faced considerable challenges since the fall of President Soeharto just over 10 years ago.

Residents of Lombok have benefited from the transition to greater democratic participation and political decentralisation since 1998. Yet this has also led to periods of social instability as new, less authoritarian models of governance have developed to replace Soeharto's highly-centralised system. Over the last decade, Lombok has confronted a 'crime wave' leading to high rates of theft, anti-Chinese riots, often out-of-control pamswakarsa (private militia) and sporadic periods of politically-motivated conflict between ethnic groups. As a consequence, a series of local responses to deal with tension and conflict have been implemented.

This presentation is centred on a case study of the successful maintenance of social stability during hotly contested and politically-divisive regional gubernatorial elections (PILKADA) held in Lombok last year. It investigates the reasons for the maintenance of social stability,

particularly focusing on the role of influential and revered local Muslim leaders, known as Tuan Guru. Particular attention is paid to how the Tuan Guru deploy Islamic legal traditions and traditional customary law, sometimes in partnership with weakened formal state institutions, to facilitate peace-building and dispute resolution processes.

The aim is to consider what can be learnt from Lombok's response to the potential election-related conflict and then speculate on whether these lessons may have broader application as a way of dealing with the shortcomings of formal dispute resolution processes in Indonesia, including laws, courts and other state institutions.

#### EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday, 28 October 2009

Level 2, Room 223

Melbourne Law School