
**Weekly Report of
Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme**

Religious Conflict

1. Moro rebel groups may take BBL to UN

Leaders of the two mainstream Moro revolutionary groups, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in the Southern Philippines are considering bringing the controversial Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) before the United Nations, as they doubt it will be passed without being diluted under the present Administration. The BBL was a product of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), a peace agreement signed between the MILF and the Philippine government.

Keywords: Philippines, Bangsamoro, BBL, Moro Islamic Liberation Front

2. Rohingya refugees vanish from Indonesia

The United Nations has expressed concerns regarding hundreds of Rohingya refugees who have gone missing from camps in Indonesia in recent months. The UN's agency for refugees is afraid that they might again be falling victims to [dangerous smuggling rings](#) in a bid to reach Malaysia. It was previously reported that many Rohingya Muslims were being sold as slaves to Thai fishing vessels.

Keywords: Rohingyas, Myanmar, Human Trafficking, Indonesia, Malaysia

3. Central African Republic: Heavy Fighting Breaks Out During Central African Republic Referendum

Heavy fighting broke out in a Muslim district of Bangui, Central African Republic's capital, during a constitutional referendum aimed at ending years of bloody sectarian strife across the country. The ballot was seen as a test ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections due to take place on December 27 which is hoped will end nearly [two years of conflict](#) between anti-Balaka and ex-Selaka militia.

Keywords: Central African Republic, Conflict, Violence, Referendum, Elections

Religious Controversies

1. Nigeria: Army Chief, Buratai, Escapes Assassination

According to the Nigerian army, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Tukur Buratai, escaped an assassination attempt by members of the Shiite Islamic Sect in Zaria, Kaduna State. The attack, allegedly ordered by the Shiite leader, Ibrahim Alzak-zaky, was repelled leaving at least three people dead with over 20 others injured.

Keywords: Nigeria, Assassination attempt, Shiites, Chief of Army, Ibrahim Alzak-zaky

Secularism, Religious Freedom and New Religious Movements

1. Turkey to give Alevi prayer houses legal status

Turkey will give the prayer houses of its Alevi community, a Turkish version of Alawism, a legal status in the country. The largest minority faith group, which comprises a quarter of the country's population, has long demanded for their registration under a legal status.

Keywords: Turkey, Alevi, Minority rights, Religion

Peace, Reconciliation and Interfaith Dialogue

1. Vatican says Catholics should not try to convert Jews, should fight anti-semitism

In a new document from the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, the Vatican stressed that the two religions were intertwined and that Catholics should not try to convert Jews. It has also urged Christians to fight anti-Semitism. The document is an attempt to move away from the previous strained relationship between the two religions. In the past, for example, Catholic prayers have denounced Jews for not believing in Jesus.

Keywords: Vatican, Jews, Catholics, Anti-Semitism

2. Interfaith 'sisters' seek common ground

350 Muslim and Jewish women gathered in Princeton University, in the United States, to build bridges and fight hate, negative stereotyping, and prejudice. Just a few days after the tragic massacre in California, members of the two communities came together in order to learn from each other and foster interfaith dialogue.

Keywords: United States, Interfaith, Jews, Muslims, Princeton University