Extremism in Indonesia

What is the issue?

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Recent actions of Indonesian government threaten the long-cherished unity in diversity of that nation.

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What are the problems in Indonesia?

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- Southeast Asia’s largest economy, Indonesia has serious religious extremism.
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- About 88% of Indonesians are Muslim and the archipelago’s Chinese community has periodically been subject to massacres.
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- There is a strong growing vigilante Islamism.
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- Recently right wing extremist smashed up bars and disrupted concerts by Western pop musicians.
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- The space for non-Muslims to make personal comments in public or on social media is shrinking.
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What are the recent trails under blasphemy?

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- According to Human Rights Watch, 16 people have been persecuted and sentenced for blasphemy in the last three years
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- Recently governor of Jakarta who is a Chinese Christian was imprisoned on charges of blasphemy.
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- Right-wing vigilante groups began alleging that he had committed blasphemy while on the campaign trail for his 2017 re-election.
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- The ‘blasphemy’ consisted of telling voters that they shouldn’t be duped by religious leaders.
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- He stated that few religious leaders misuse the Koranic verse Al-Maidah 51 to justify claims that Muslims should not have non-Muslim leaders.
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Source: The Hindu

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