



Indonesia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 20 February 2019

Information on police performance and corruption

A report issued in April 2018 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of the preceding year notes that:

“There was impunity and corruption within the police and military” (United States Department of State (20 April 2018) *2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Indonesia*, p.7).

In June 2018 the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* notes in a report that:

“Police have limited capability to respond quickly to criminal acts and other emergencies on a consistent basis. Limited training and investigative ability challenge investigations to solve complex and complicated crimes...Corruption remains a problem; some officers augment low salaries by accepting payments from motorists who violate traffic laws. Police sometimes charge victims to investigate crimes or to return recovered stolen property” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (25 June 2018) *Indonesia 2018 Crime & Safety Report: Jakarta*, pp.8-9).

A report issued in October 2018 by *Transparency International* notes that:

“Police officers are also reported to frequently demand bribes for everything from traffic violations to criminal investigations” (Transparency International (18 October 2018) *Indonesia: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption*, p.9).

In January 2019 the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* notes that:

“Notwithstanding strong laws against corruption, international commentators have observed weak enforcement of anti-corruption legislation, ineffective regulatory mechanisms and conflicting legislation, a culture of nepotism and favouritism, and bribery in the public service, judiciary, police and politics. Petty corruption is common in areas such as policing and education...” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (25 January 2019) *DFAT Country Information Report Indonesia*, p.10).

This document also states that:

“The police disciplined 5,404 officers for misconduct during 2017. Local sources say training of police is improving and has reduced rates of violence” (ibid, p.39).

It is also noted in this report that:

“Professionalism varies across the police. Shortages of equipment, a lack of training, a low investigative capacity, and corruption limit the effectiveness of the police. Reports of police abuses are common, including unnecessary or excessive use of force while dispersing protests and the abuse of suspects in detention” (ibid, p.41).

References

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (25 January 2019) *DFAT Country Information Report Indonesia*
<https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2002930/country-information-report-indonesia.pdf>
Accessed Wednesday 20 February 2019

Transparency International (18 October 2018) *Indonesia: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/indonesia-overview-corruption-and-anti-corruption>

This is a subscription database
Accessed Wednesday 20 February 2019

United States Department of State (20 April 2018) *2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Indonesia*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/2017-country-reports-human-rights-practices-indonesia>

This is a subscription database
Accessed Wednesday 20 February 2019

United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (25 June 2018) *Indonesia 2018 Crime & Safety Report: Jakarta*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/indonesia-2018-crime-safety-report-jakarta>

This is a subscription database
Accessed Wednesday 20 February 2019

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News/Monitoring
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International

Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld