

Pakistani Academic Muhammad Maaz Arif interviews Indonesian Social Activist and Former Journalist Rani Hendasani

Speakers:

Rani Hendasani

(Social Activist and Former Journalist)

Muhammad Maaz Arif

(Pakistani Academic/Researcher)

[14-Sep-2025]

Summary:

Rani Hendasani, an Indonesian activist and former journalist, examines the country's political turmoil, social unrest, and global challenges. She accuses political elites of neglecting public suffering, suppressing protests, and lacking moral integrity, citing violence, fatalities, and disappearances during the August 2025 protests. Rani outlines profound cleavage between elites and grassroots society, Islam's little practical influence in politics, and Indonesia's geopolitical balancing with the United States and China. She affirms Indonesia's strong public and governmental support for Palestine via diplomatic and humanitarian aid, and she attributes Indonesia's problems overpopulation, urbanization, unemployment, and environmental degradation to inadequate governance. She closes by advocating for international solidarity, independent journalism, and raising worldwide awareness about human rights violations and missing activists in Indonesia.

Text/Transcript:

The interview is with Rani Hendasani¹, an Indonesian communication science graduate, former journalist, and current social media activist and civil society advocate. She

highlights her attention on three major issues: **Indonesian politics, climate change, and the Gaza, Palestine**².

Rani describes **Indonesia's current political situation** as dire, citing public outrage over rising parliamentary salaries, insensitive behavior by some lawmakers, police violence, and violent unrest during protests in August 2025, which resulted in deaths, injuries, arrests, and missing persons. She blames political elites for neglecting public suffering and observes a deep polarization between political elites and grassroots society, with no major political party displaying significant moral integrity, since the majority behave pragmatically².

She adds that Islam has little practical effect in Indonesian politics, which are influenced by **geopolitical polarization between the United States of America and China** rather than being completely controlled by one state. On foreign policy, she underlines Indonesia's strong historical and emotional support for Palestine, citing widespread public solidarity and government initiatives such as humanitarian aid, and reluctance to normalize relations with Israel until Palestinian independence is achieved².

The discussion also discusses **Indonesia's environmental** and socioeconomic concerns, such as overcrowding, overconsumption, urbanization, traffic congestion, unemployment, and the strain on resources caused by rural-to-urban migration. Rani emphasizes that these difficulties necessitate systemic solutions, not repression².

Finally, she appeals for world attention to **Indonesia's human rights concerns**, notably the case of missing activists, and highlights the necessity of Muslim nations working together. The talk finishes with mutual recognition of independent journalists and activists, particularly those focusing on Gaza, and the need to raise their voices globally².

References:

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2. Iqbal's Response 21C. Indonesian Politics, Gaza and Environment - Rani Hendasani (IR21C Podcast #15) [Internet]. YouTube. 2025. Available from:

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