



A Bridge of
Indonesian-Polish
in Education, Social
and Culture.

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Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Polandia

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Press Release

Indonesian Students Association in Poland (Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia di Polandia/ PPI Polandia) would like to clarify our views and stances over the contents of the article titled “Muzułmańscy studenci z UMK chcą przerw na modlitwę. Centrum Kultury Muzułmańskiej - Bez przesady, mogą odrobić” published by Gazeta Pomorska on November 19, 2019 (<https://pomorska.pl/muzulmanscy-studenci-z-umk-chca-przerw-na-modlitwe-centrum-kultury-muzulmanskiej-bez-przesady-moga-odrobic/ar/c1-14593199>).

The content of the given article is inaccurate, misleading, and in contrary to Poland’s long-standing tradition of interreligious tolerance and peaceful co-existence of religious communities.

Prayer (salat), is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is an important guiding principle that all Muslims must follow. However, Indonesian muslim students who study at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń have never demanded to adjust the class schedule to the prayer schedule. They simply discussed the best way to work around the existing schedule to be able to participate in the obligatory classes as well as to perform salat. For example, by having the option of either joining different study groups or different classes—but this, surely requires further discussions to meet both needs (in respect of academic matter and university’s regulations as well as non-academic entitlement).

As Indonesians, we are accustomed to live in harmony with people from different background. Indonesia is a vast archipelago country comprising more than 17,000 islands where more than 260 millions people call it their home. It makes Indonesia the fourth most populous country in the world. In Indonesia, cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity is a daily reality and Indonesians have learned to respect and cherish the diversity since a young age.

In today society, news media as well as social media have an undeniable power in influencing and shaping public opinion. Therefore, it is essential that news media strive to provide fair and accurate contents to prevent misconceived informations.

We hope that henceforth the media can provide more objective and accurate contents, especially regarding sensitive issues such as religion. Again, we emphasize that we value tolerance and promote peace. Studying in Poland is an honor and our priority and we wish to maintain good relationship with all parties during our stay. (*)



Zulkifli

Chairman – PPI Polandia