

Indonesian (Protestant) Churches: Bahai, Jews Can State Their Beliefs on ID Cards



[AH19_151117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

The Indonesian Constitutional Court [MK] has accepted all items of the judicial review (JR) on Law No. 22/2006 which had been changed into Law No. 24/2013 on the Civil Administration Regulations. The Court decided to allow the followers of *Penghayat Kepercayaan* [PK] or indigenous faiths to state their beliefs in the column of "religion" on their Family Cards (KK) and e-National Identity Cards (e-KTP).

According to the General Secretary of PGI or the Indonesian Communion of (Protestant) Churches, Rev. Gomar Gultom, the unofficial indigenous faiths and the religions which are not acknowledged such as Bahai, Jews, and many more, would be allowed to state their beliefs in the "religion" column on their national identity cards (KTP).

Quoted by *hidayatullah.com* Sunday (on 12 November), the Reverence said that MK had, indeed, declared that the word "religion" stated on at Article 61 [1 and 2] and Article 64 [1 and 5] of the Civil Administration Law contradicts the 1945 Constitution and is not legally binding.

To PGI, the decision is, indeed, a progressive step since the state, the Unitary Republic of Indonesia, recognizes the rights of all people to state their beliefs in the column of "religion" on their National Identity Cards (KTP) and Family Cards (KK). [Instead of officially recognizing only six religions, Indonesia now recognize seven, namely, Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, and *Penghayat Kepercayaan* [PK, there are more than 300 indigenous "religions" all over the country.]

"PGI would like to thank all parties for having conducted their endless efforts [so that the final and legally binding decision had been made by MK]," Rev. Gomar Gultom said, adding that PGI had been long struggling for the rights of the traditional communities and ingenious "religions".

He also hoped that the implementation of the decision would be carried out in no time, and that the Home Affairs Ministry would also soon erase all those other discriminative regulations.

In the meantime, an important figure of one of Muhammadiyah Universities, Uhamka Jakarta, Maneger Nasution, said Wednesday (8 November) that there would be many administrative affairs that the government [Religious Affairs Minister, Educational Affairs Minister, and Home Affairs Minister] had to handle. Likewise, the General Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Haedar Nashir, said in Jakarta on Friday [10 November] that he regretted at MK's decision.

Source: SKR/MAS, [hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/14/127939/pgi-dengan-putusan-mk-yahudi-dan-bahai-dapat-menuliskan-agamanya.html](https://www.skr.com/berita/nasional/read/2017/11/14/127939/pgi-dengan-putusan-mk-yahudi-dan-bahai-dapat-menuliskan-agamanya.html). "PGI: Dengan Putusan MK, Yahudi dan Bahai Dapat Menuliskan Agamanya (PGI: MK's decision on ingenious "religions" enables Indonesian Bahai and Jews to state their beliefs on their national identity cards)", in Indonesian, 14 Nov 17.

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