Ahmadiyah, a minority religious community that identifies with Islam, has existed in Indonesia since the 1920s. Over the last few years, however, Ahmadiyah has experienced increasing tension and hostility from conservative, orthodox Islamic groups in Indonesia. On 1 June 2008, this culminated in a violent attack on supporters of Ahmadiyah by militant Islamic groups at the National Monument (known as ‘Monas’) in Jakarta. Shortly after this incident, the Indonesian government issued Joint Decree 3/2008 as a ‘warning’ to followers of Ahmadiyah.

Melissa will analyse the origins of Ahmadiyah and, in particular, its formation in Indonesia. She will examine the efforts of three key actors pushing for a total ban on Ahmadiyah in Indonesia: the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI); the Coordinating Board for Monitoring Mystical Beliefs in Society (known as ‘Bakor Pakem’); and radical Islamic groups. Melissa will argue that although the Indonesian government compromised by issuing a ‘warning’ (not a total ban), and by prosecuting two of the leading perpetrators of the Monas incident, this has only created confusion about the status of Ahmadiyah in Indonesia and has failed to prevent further violent attacks against them.

This presentation is the launch of Melissa’s Background Paper published by Tim’s Lindsey’s ARC Federation Fellowship *Islam, Syariah and Governance* Background Paper Series. Copies will be made available at the launch.

**PRESENTER**

Melissa Crouch is a PhD candidate in the Law School. She is also a Research Assistant at the Asian Law Centre. In 2006, Melissa completed the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Laws (Hons.) degrees at the University of Melbourne. Melissa’s doctoral research is supported by an ARC Federation Fellowship doctoral scholarship and an Endeavour Australia Award. Melissa has had articles published in the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, *Australian Journal of Asian Law* and *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies*.

**ABSTRACT**

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