JAKARTA

Islamist groups infiltrating many areas, report says

Islamist groups originating from Saudi Arabia and Egypt are systematically infiltrating Indonesian mosques, institutes, universities and government, posing an even greater threat to the country than regional terrorist groups, according to a report by the LibforAll Foundation, a nongovernmental organization promoting religious tolerance.

The 200-page report says foreign fundamentalist groups have penetrated nearly all facets of Indonesian society. This includes, says the country’s largest mass Islamic organizations, Muhammadiyah and the Nahdlatul Ulama, which have a combined membership of about 70 million Indonesian Muslims.

In the case of Muhammadiyah, the report says fundamentalists have taken almost total control of its leadership, which could have dire results for Indonesia’s moderate version of Islam.

Fundamentalist groups have long considered Muhammadiyah and the Nahdlatul Ulama, with their moderate views, to be major obstacles to their goal of establishing a pan-national Islamic state.