



**Deepak Obhrai, MP**  
Calgary East  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

**August 7, 2009**

## **Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai Visits Indonesia**

(JAKARTA) Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Deepak Obhrai visited Indonesia from July 28 to 31, and met with key interlocutors including Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirajuda and Presidential Advisor on Foreign Affairs Dino Djalal.

In Jakarta, Mr Obhrai also took part in the graduation ceremony of the School of Human Rights for University Students funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and organised by human rights NGO KontraS.

During his remarks, Mr Obhrai offered his condolences and words of support to Indonesians following the July 17 Jakarta bombings, but also to Suciwati, widow of murdered human rights activist Munir, as well as to the other family members of victims and the disappeared attending the ceremony. Mr Obhrai underlined the significance of the Charter of Rights in the Canadian context and the importance of the collaboration between the civil societies and governments of Canada and Indonesia on human rights, including within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Together with Usman Hamid, Coordinator of KontraS, Mr Obhrai presented graduation certificates to the students.

Besides Jakarta, Mr Obhrai also travelled to two cities in Java: Semarang and Yogyakarta. In Semarang, Mr Obhrai visited the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement (JCLEC), a training facility for police officers focussing on improving skills in combating transnational crime, with an emphasis on counter-terrorism efforts. There he discussed Canada-Indonesia cooperative counter-terrorism and law-enforcement training with senior management and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer on placement at JCLEC.

**More.....**

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In Yogyakarta, Mr Obhrai paid a visit to the State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Kalijaga. After a tour of the UIN-McGill Canadian Resource Centre, which offers visitors a wealth of information on Canada, through books, Internet and audiovisual material, Mr Obhrai delivered a guest lecture themed "Intercultural Dialogue: Canadian Reflections" to a hundred faculty members, staff and students. In his lecture Mr Obhrai highlighted a number of important milestones in Canadian history and underlined the importance of pluralism and human rights-based laws in Canadian society today. Mr Obhrai also handed over reference books to add to the Centre's collection, on behalf of the Government of Canada.

On his last official day in Indonesia, Mr Obhrai met with the business community and spoke at a breakfast meeting of the Indonesia-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC).

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**For more information, contact Darryl Whitehead at (613) 947-4567**

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