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Maintaining order: Public prosecutors in post-authoritarian countries, the case of Indonesia

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Maintaining Order

Public Prosecutors in
Post-Authoritarian Countries,
the case of Indonesia

F. AFANDI

This book gives a comprehensive account of the public prosecutor's role in post-authoritarian Indonesia, both in promoting the rule of law and in maintaining the political status quo. It traces the development of the Indonesian prosecution service, historically and politically, exploring what and who influences its performance, as well as how public prosecutors work in practice.

The case of Indonesia constitutes an example of the way in which prosecution services evolve in countries marked by authoritarian tendencies. It shows how various regimes position public prosecutors as 'justice postmen', who deliver cases based on the government's interests, as well as on the interests of other powerful actors, such as political parties, companies, or the police force. Such situations are commonly seen in authoritarian countries, where the executive dominates political power, and public prosecutors have become tools of the government in maintaining political order.

Maintaining Order: Public Prosecutors in Post-Authoritarian Countries, the Case of Indonesia is a socio-legal study of the criminal justice system. It contributes to a number of broader debates about post-authoritarian public prosecutors and their role in promoting the rule of law. By combining criminal law, criminology, political science and anthropological theory, it provides an important framework for the analysis and critique of conditions for, impacts of, and possibilities for prosecution services in post-authoritarian countries.

This is a volume in the series of the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of the Leiden Law School of Leiden University. This study is part of the Law School's research programme 'Effective Protection of Fundamental Rights in a pluralist world' and 'Criminal Justice: Legitimacy, Accountability and Effectivity'.