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Workplace and community: workers' politics of representation in Semarang and Pekalongan, Central Java

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and Pekalongan, Central Java

Hari Nugroho

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Workplace and Community

Workers' Politics of Representation in Semarang
and Pekalongan, Central Java

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I never anticipated this work would become such an extensive journey. Throughout the study, many significant life events occurred, and new developments in Indonesian labour movements have even emerged. However, I believe documenting the collective experiences of those who participated in this study is always valuable, offering rich lessons, especially amidst the current social and political challenges faced by workers in Indonesia.

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Glossary

ABKS	<i>Aliansi Buruh Kabupaten Semarang</i> ; Semarang Regency Workers Alliance
ABM	<i>Aliansi Buruh Menggugat</i> ; Workers' Challenge Alliance
ACFTA	ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement
ACILS	American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center)
AFL-CIO	American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
APINDO	<i>Asosiasi Pengusaha Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Employers Association
ASPSB-Serang	<i>Aliansi Serikat Pekerja Serikat Buruh Serang</i> ; Alliance for Serang Workers' Unions
BBI	<i>Barisan Buruh Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Workers Front (established in 1945)
BPJS	<i>Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial</i> ; Social Security Agency (for health care and manpower services)
BWI	Better Work Indonesia; a joint program of International Labour Organisation (ILO) and International Finance Corporation (IFC/World Bank Group) for assessing the companies' compliance of labour standard
Disnaker	<i>Dinas Tenaga Kerja</i> ; Regional Manpower Office
DPR	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat</i> ; People's Representative Council
DPRD	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah</i> ; Regional People's Representative Council
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; Friedrich Ebert Foundation
FKRM	<i>Forum Komunikasi Remaja Masjid</i> ; Communication Forum for Mosque Youth

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FPBN	<i>Forum Pendampingan Buruh Nasional</i> ; Forum for National Workers Advocacy
FSBS	<i>Forum Solidaritas Buruh Serang</i> ; Serang Workers Solidarity Forum
FSP Farkes Reformasi	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Farmasi dan Kesehatan Reformasi</i> ; Federation of Reformed Pharmacy and Health Workers Unions
FSP KAHUT SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Perkayuan dan kehutanan</i> ; Federation of Wood and Forestry Workers Unions – SPSI
FSP KEP	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Kimia, Energi dan Pertambangan</i> ; Federation of Chemical, Energy, and Mining Workers Unions.
FSP KEP SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Kimia, Energi dan Pertambangan – SPSI</i> ; Federation of Chemical, Energy, and Mining Workers Unions – SPSI.
FSP NIBA SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Niaga, Bank, Jasa dan Asuransi</i> ; Federation of Commercial, Bank, Service and Insurance Workers Unions – SPSI
FSP PAR SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Pariwisata</i> ; Tourism Workers Union Federation – SPSI
FSP RTMM SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Rokok, Tembakau, Makanan dan Minuman - SPSI</i> ; Federation of Cigarette, Tobacco, Food and Beverage Workers Unions – SPSI.
FSP TSK SPSI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Tekstil, Sandang, Kulit</i> ; Federation of Textile, Garment, Leather Workers Unions.
FSPMI	<i>Federasi Serikat Pekerja Metal Indonesia</i> ; Federation of Indonesian Metal Workers Union
GASBI	<i>Gabungan Serikat Buruh Indonesina</i> ; Amalgamated Trade Unions of Indonesia
GSBVI	<i>Gabungan Serikat Buruh Vertikal Indonesia</i> ; Amalgamated Vertical Trade Unions of Indonesia

GASBIINDO	<i>Gabungan Serikat Buruh Islam Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Islamic Trade Union Amalgamated
GEMPUR	<i>Gerakan Masyarakat Pekerja Ungaran</i> ; Ungaran Workers Community Movement
GERBANG	<i>Gerakan Buruh Berjuang Jawa Tengah</i> ; Central Java Workers Struggle Movement
Gerindra	<i>Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya</i> ; Great Indonesia Movement Party
GOBSII	<i>Gabungan Serikat Buruh Sjarikat Islam Indonesia</i> ; Amalgamated Indonesian Islamic Workers' Organisation
GOLKAR	<i>Golongan Karya</i> ; Functional Group Party
GP Ansor	<i>Gerakan Pemuda Ansor</i> ; Ansor Youth Movement
HISSBI	<i>Himpunan Serikat-Serikat Buruh Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Workers' Unions Federation
HIVOS	<i>Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking</i> ; Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (Netherlands-based donor organisation)
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JABURTANI (PKS)	<i>Jaringan Buruh Tani Nelayan</i> ; Networks of Workers, Farmers, Fishers (a division of PKS - Prosperous Justice Party)
Jamkesda	<i>Jaminan Kesehatan Daerah</i> ; Regional Health Insurance
Jamsostek	<i>Jaminan Sosial Tenaga Kerja</i> ; Workers' Social Insurance
KAJS	<i>Komite Aksi Jaminan Sosial</i> ; Social Security Action Committee
KBIM	<i>Kongres Buruh Islam Merdeka</i> ; Independent Islamic Labour Congress
KBKI	<i>Kesatuan Buruh Kerakyatan Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Populist Workers' Union

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KBSI	<i>Kongres Buruh Seluruh Indonesia</i> ; All-Indonesia Workers' Congress
KHL	<i>Kebutuhan Hidup Layak</i> ; Decent Living Needs (Index)
Kongkarbu SOKSI	<i>Konsentrasi Golongan Karya Buruh</i> ; Workers' Functional Group Concentration (a labour organisation establish by SOKSI)
KPPOD	<i>Komite Pemantauan Pelaksanaan Otonomi Daerah</i> ; Regional Autonomy Implementation Monitoring Committee
KPUD	<i>Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah</i> ; Regional General Elections Commission.
KSBSI	<i>Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia</i> ; Confederation of Indonesia Prosperous Labour Unions
KSPI	<i>Konfederasi Serikat Pekerja Indonesia</i> ; Confederation of Indonesian Workers' Unions
KSPN	<i>Kesatuan Serikat Pekerja Nasional</i> ; National Workers' Union Unity
LIPS	<i>Lembaga Informasi Perburuhan Sedane</i> ; Sedane Labour Information Institute
Masyumi	<i>Majelis Syuro Muslimin Indonesia</i> ; Consultative Council of Indonesian Muslims (Muslim Party of the 1950s)
MPBI	<i>Majelis Pekerja Buruh Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Assembly of Workers – a workers alliance for consolidating the movement among different unions.
MPBI	<i>Majelis Permusyawaratan Buruh Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Labour Consultative Council (an institution established by Indonesian government during the New Order era (1971) to accommodate the different interests of unions.
Murba-SOBRI	Proletarian Party established by Non-PKI communists
Nahdliyin Center	Nahdliyin Center (community centre affiliated to NU)

NU	<i>Nahdlatul Ulama</i> ; Revival of Religious Scholars (Indonesia's largest Islamic Organisation)
Omah Tani	<i>Omah Tani</i> ; Farmers' House
PAN	<i>Partai Amanat Nasional</i> ; National Mandate Party
PATTIRO	<i>Pusat Telaah dan Informasi Regional</i> ; Centre for Regional Information and Studies (NGO)
PBSD	<i>Partai Buruh Sosial Demokrat</i> ; Democratic Social Labour Party
PDIP	<i>Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan</i> ; Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle
PGRI	<i>Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Teachers Association
PKB	<i>Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa</i> ; National Awakening Party
PKI	<i>Partai Komunis Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Communist Party
PKS	<i>Partai Keadilan Sejahtera</i> ; Prosperous Justice Party
PPP	<i>Partai Persatuan Pembangunan</i> ; United Development Party
SARBUMUSI	<i>Serikat Buruh Muslimin Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Muslim Labour Union (linked to NU)
SBII	<i>Serikat Buruh Islam Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Islamic Trade Union
SBKI	<i>Serikat Buruh Kristen Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Cristian Workers' Union
SBY	<i>Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono</i> (the 6th President of the Republic of Indonesia)
SEKBER-Buruh	<i>Sekretariat Bersama Buruh</i> ; <i>Workers' Joint Secretariat</i>
Sekber-Golkar	<i>Sekretariat Bersama Golongan Karya</i> ; Functional Group Joint Secretariat
SI	<i>Sarekat Islam</i> ; Islamic Union/ Association
SJSN	<i>Sistem Jaminan Sosial Nasional</i> ; National Social Security System

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SMID	<i>Solidaritas Mahasiswa Indonesia untuk Demokrasi</i> ; Indonesian Students Solidarity for Democracy
SOBRI	<i>Sentral Organisasi Buruh Seluruh Indonesia</i> ; Central All-Indonesian Workers Organisation
SOKSI	<i>Sentral Organisasi Karyawan Sosialis Indonesia</i> ; Central Organisation of Indonesian Socialist Employee
SOB Pantjasila	<i>Sentral Organisasi Buruh Pantjasila</i> ; Pantjasila Central Workers Organisation (linked to Catholic Party)
SP BUN	<i>Serikat Pekerja Perkebunan Nusantara</i> ; Nusantara Plantation Workers Union
SP KAHUTINDO	<i>Serikat Pekerja PerKayuan, Kehutanan, dan Umum, Indonesia</i> ; Indonesian Wood, Forestry, General Workers Unions
SPN	<i>Serikat Pekerja Nasional</i> ; National Workers' Union
SPSI	<i>Serikat Pekerja Seluruh Indonesia</i> ; All Indonesia's Workers Union (currently a confederation: KSPSI)
TURC	Trade Union Rights Centre (NGO)
UMK	<i>Upah Minimum Kota/Kabupaten</i> ; Regional (City/Regency) Minimum Wage
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
Yasanti	<i>Yayasan Annisa Swasti</i> ; Annisa Swasti Foundation (NGO for women workers)
Yawas	<i>Yayasan Wahyu Sosial</i> ; Wahyu Sosial Foundation (NGO)
VSTP	<i>Vereeniging van Spoor-en Trammweg Personeel</i> ; Rail and Tram Workers' Union (established in Dutch colonial era)