

# The Translocal Networks of Indonesian Hadhramis: Examining Movement and Communication in Central and Northern Sulawesi

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## Abstract

Based on field research in central and northern Sulawesi, lasting from August 2007 to July 2008, the paper explores the translocal networks of Indonesians of Arab descent, a diaspora society called Hadhramis in the literature as they originate from the Hadhramaut (in today's Yemen). In this region of Indonesia, Hadhramis settled not only in the main coastal trading towns but spread also to relatively remote places, thus building an especially vast network. The paper will examine this network which is based on kinship ties, trade connections and religious relations. It is particularly concerned with the movements of Hadhramis within the network and with their communication channels and practices. In this regard, it will distinguish between the Hadhrami community as a whole and certain Hadhrami clans prominent in the region. Trade connections and economic activities in Sulawesi will be discussed by taking into account their attachment to bigger networks which geographically encompass the island of Java, especially Jakarta, and ethnically often transcend the Hadhrami community. The networks of the Islamic organisation al-Khairaat which was founded by a prominent Hadhrami in Palu, Central Sulawesi, are of utmost importance for Hadhrami religious activities in the region. By examining these connections and ties the paper aims to bring to light the manifold dimensions and facets of translocality produced by Hadhrami diaspora networking.