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Resilient Communities

In *Resilient Communities*, Jana Krause focuses on civilian agency and mobilization 'from below' and explains violence and non-violence in communal wars. Drawing on extensive field research on ethno-religious conflicts in Ambon/Maluku Province in eastern Indonesia and Jos/Plateau State in central Nigeria, this book shows how civilians responded to local conflict dynamics very differently, evading, supporting, or collectively resisting armed groups. Combining evidence collected from more than 200 interviews with residents, community leaders, and former fighters, local scholarly work (in Indonesian), and local newspaper-based event data analysis, this book explains civilian mobilization, militia formation, and conflict escalation. The book's comparison of vulnerable mixed communities and (un)successful prevention efforts demonstrates how under courageous leadership resilient communities can emerge that adapt to changing conflict zones and collectively prevent killings. By developing the concepts of communal war and social resilience, Krause extends our understanding of local violence, (non-)escalation, and implications for prevention.

JANA KRAUSE is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam.

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Resilient Communities

Non-Violence and Civilian Agency in Communal War

JANA KRAUSE
University of Amsterdam

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108471114
DOI: 10.1017/9781108675079

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First published 2018

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-47111-4 Hardback

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Acknowledgements

This book began with curiosity about how communities located in areas affected by 'religious' conflict remain 'immune' to the conflict dynamics, protect themselves, and preserve spaces of non-violence. While investigating the puzzle of non-violence, interviewing community leaders and residents about their prevention work, and verifying with respondents from gangs and militias why these non-violent communities had not been attacked, I realized that the conflicts in Ambon and Jos did not fit common perceptions of riots. The lethality and ferocity of fighting raised questions as to why and how people could mobilize to such an extent. This book offers an analysis of violence and non-violence in communal war that I hope will make a contribution towards a better understanding of communal militarization and the prevention of such killings. It is based on the accounts, insights, and reflections of my respondents in Ambon and Jos, who shared their precious time, knowledge, and often painful experiences with me with much patience, and at times in the context of continuing conflict. First and foremost, I am most grateful to them. They remain anonymous within this text through the use of pseudonyms. Yet without their reflections, explanations, questions, and memories, this book would obviously not have been possible.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to a great many others who have so generously offered their time, their comments, and their encouragement. I began the process of writing this book at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. I am so grateful to my dissertation advisors Keith Krause and Tom Biersteker at the Graduate Institute for their guidance, patience, encouragement, intellectual energy, and support throughout the research process. I am also indebted to Jeff Checkel, whose input proved invaluable and who pushed me towards greater analytical clarity. The research later led to an international research

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consortium on the gender dimensions of conflict and peacebuilding with research partners in Indonesia and Nigeria. I am very grateful to Arifah Rahmawati and Wening Udasmoro as well as Joy Onyesoh and Mimidoo Achakpa; the many discussions with them sharpened my arguments.

My fieldwork was made possible by a long list of people who offered indispensable advice along the way. I would like to express my gratitude to the Centre for Security and Peace Research at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for hosting me during my research in 2009 and 2010. I am grateful to Jeroen Adam, Gerry van Klinken, and Rizal Panggabean for very helpful advice before embarking on fieldwork in Indonesia. Arifah Rahmawati greatly facilitated my research in Ambon, patiently discussing with me her research and mediation experiences and introducing me to friends and former colleagues in Ambon. I warmly thank Jemmy, Herry, Merry, and Onya in Ambon for showing me this beautiful place and aiding my research at various stages. I am also grateful to academic colleagues at Ambon's Pattimura University for sharing their expertise with me, and to the staff at Ambon's Interfaith Centre, Lembaga Antar Imam Maluku, who discussed their peacebuilding work with me at length. I thank my Indonesian language teachers at Wismah Bahasa in Yogyakarta for their enthusiasm and patience, advice, and encouragement. I gratefully remember Ibu Heru for her warmth and generosity; her homestay in Yogyakarta offered a place to which to retreat, reflect on interviews, and reconnect with very helpful friends. I also thank Aan for his excellent transcription and translation assistance.

I am grateful to the staff at the Small Arms Survey, most notably Robert Muggah, Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Luigi De Martino, Eric Berman, and Carole Touraine, for their wonderful support of my research in Nigeria. I am also grateful to Adam Higazi, Yakubu Joseph, and Philip Ostien, who provided invaluable advice in preparation of research in Jos and detailed critical feedback on my findings. I thank the office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Abuja for having facilitated my work. In Jos, I am especially grateful for the insights and support provided by Sister Helena McEvilly of the Franciscans. I thank my research assistant, who remains anonymous, for his excellent work. I am also deeply grateful to all the colleagues from NGO peacebuilding initiatives in Jos – and in Ambon – who discussed their work and the lessons they have learned with me in

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numerous meetings. I greatly admire their unwavering energy, hope, and resolve.

I am grateful to the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the Graduate Institute, which provided a supportive environment and funded part of my research. I thank the colleagues, friends, and academics there who were so generous in sharing helpful comments and lending a patient ear to my fieldwork experiences: Assia Alexieva, Rachelle Cloutier, Cecilia Cannon, Elena Gadjanova, Janis Grzybowski, Heidi Hardt, Stephanie Hofmann, Jasna Lazarevic, Thania Paffenholz, Chris Stevenson, and Achim Wennmann.

The Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence at Yale University provided a very welcoming and immensely stimulating environment to further develop the arguments and analysis of this book. Stathis Kalyvas offered invaluable support and advice when this project was in its early stages, and Libby Wood, as always, was extremely helpful with her guidance, questions, feedback, and encouragement. I also thank Regina Bateson, Francesca Grandi, Adi Greif, Seraina Grünewald, Corinna Jentzsch, Megan Lynch, Colin Nippert, Livia Schubiger, Alex Shukov, and Jessika Trisko Darden for very helpful conversations on this project.

The War Studies Department at King's College London, and in particular the Conflict, Security and Development Research Group, was a very welcoming and supportive place in which to finalize this manuscript. I am deeply grateful to Mats Berdal, Christine Cheng, Rebekka Friedman, Kieran Mitton, and Oisín Tansey, as well as Claudia Aradau and Vivienne Jabri for their encouragement and critical feedback on arguments developed in this book.

Finally, in Amsterdam, where I completed this manuscript, I am indebted to Kars de Bruijne, Simone Datzberger, Ursula Daxecker, Marlies Glasius, Marieke de Goede, Imke Harbers, Beste Isleyen, Romain Malejacq, Michelle Parlevliet, Ingrid Samset, Philip Schleifer, Abbey Steele, Niels Terpstra, and Darshan Vigneswaran, for making my research stronger.

I was very fortunate to receive a large number of excellent comments on this book at various stages from Nadine Ansorg, Susanna Campbell, David Chandler, Erica Chenoweth, Eric Hieraji, Roger Mac Ginty, Zachariah Mampilly, Juan Masullo, Emily Meierding, Henri Myrttinen, Oliver Kaplan, Scott Straus, and two anonymous

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reviewers, as well as numerous participants in seminars and workshops at the University of Amsterdam, the University of Denver, Gadjah Mada University, the German Institute of Global and Area Studies, the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, the Käte-Hamburger Kolleg at the University of Duisburg-Essen, the London School of Economics, SOAS University of London, the United Nations Development Program in Abuja, and Yale University.

I gratefully acknowledge generous financial support for this work from the Graduate Institute's Political Science and International Relations Department, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Small Arms Survey, the German Foundation Villigst, and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

I thank my editor John Haslam and the team at Cambridge University Press for their excellent guidance and support, and Jenna Marangoni and Jeremy Grove for their assistance with this manuscript as well as Jillian Luff for producing the maps.

Earlier versions of some of the material from Chapters 6 and 7 were previously published in 'Non-Violence and Civilian Agency in Communal War: Evidence from Jos, Nigeria', *African Affairs* 116(463) (April 2017); and 'A Deadly Cycle: Ethno-Religious Conflict in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria', Report, Geneva Declaration Secretariat (2011b). I thank the Small Arms Survey in Geneva and the publisher of *African Affairs* for their permission to use this material.

In chapters four and five, part of my analysis draws on interviews conducted by Arifah Rahmawati in the context of a joint research project, as stated in the footnotes, and I am very grateful for the excellent collaboration.

This book would not have been possible without those who have provided their friendship, encouragement, and support over the years. I am grateful to my parents, and to Nataly Scheer, Chris Rétif, Fairlie Chappuis, Anke Draude, Diana Priese, and the late Marianne Abt.

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Abbreviations

BBM	Buton, Bugis, and Makasser (Muslim migrants on Ambon Island, Indonesia)
BECO	Berom Educational and Cultural Organization (Nigeria)
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
COCIN	Church of Christ in Nigeria
COKER	Cowok Keren ('Handsome Boys', a gang in Ambon, Indonesia)
FKAWJ	Forum Komunikasi Ahlus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah (Communication Forum of the Followers of the Sunnah and the Community of the Prophet, Indonesia)
ICMI	Ikatan Cendekiawan Muslim se-*Indonesia* (Association of Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals)
JDA	Jasawa Development Association (Nigeria)
KOPASSUS	Komando Pasukan Khusus (Special Forces Command, Indonesia)
LGA	Local Government Area (Nigeria)
PDI-P	Indonesian Democratic Party – Struggle
PDP	People's Democratic Party (Nigeria)
RMS	Republik Maluku Selatan (Republic of South Maluku, Indonesia)
TNI	Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian Army)

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