

## Oedine's Profile

Syaifudin Zuhri is a name which my father gave me. I was born on 24 June 1981 in Bondowoso, a minor city of East Java province. My first educational experience was at the at-Taqwa kindergarten when I was 6 years old. In 1998, I studied in the State Elementary School, Dabasah VII, Bondowoso, and then continued my study at the Private Junior High School (Madrasah Tsanawiyah Nurul Jadid) in 1994. Besides taking a formal education, during 1994-1997, I had also studied at Pesantren Nurul Jadid (Islamic boarding school) in Paiton-Probolinggo. Graduating from the Madrasah and pesantren, I continued my study at the State Islamic Senior High School of Jember (Madrasah Aliyah Negeri Keagamaan), East Java and graduated in 2000.

In the same year, I decided to continue my study at the State Islamic University (UIN) Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta within the theology faculty (Ushuluddin). My specialisation was the sociology of religion, especially in the Islamic religious movement. Therefore, for my undergraduate thesis, I wrote about "the Islamic Opposition Movements in the Indonesian Reform Era". I graduated in 2005 and then participated in an inter-religious dialogue institution, Dialogue Centre, under the graduate school of the State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga where I was a researcher of the institution and participated in many research activities, conferences and training programmes. I was also a student (santri) of Pesantren Nawesea (Centre for Study of Islam in North America and West Europe and South East Asia) to which I am deeply in debt.

Since September 2007, I have had the opportunity to continue my study for my master's degree in Islamic Studies at Leiden University, under the programme of Indonesian Young Leaders (IYLs). It is the greatest opportunity of my life to see how western people live, to get involved in their daily lives and to participate in their intellectual debates within western circumstances and educational systems. I hope my experience and knowledge are able to be transferred to my fellow Muslims and become a great contribution for the future *umma* (Islamic people).

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