

Conclusion

This research focuses on the demonstrations held by Malaysian civil society, students, and activists in front of the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) in Kuala Lumpur on September 2, 2025. These actions are a significant phenomenon in the study of international relations because they shows that non-state actors can engage in democratic issues of other countries through transnational activism. This research aims to answer the central question: why did Malaysian activists held a demonstration at the Indonesian Embassy in relation to the issue of democracy in Indonesia after the 2024 elections?

The results show that these demonstrations did not emerge spontaneously, not also as a form of foreign political interference, but a manifestation of a rooted cosmopolitanism process formed through a combination of three main factors: moral shock, collective identity, and the mobilization networks. These three factors are interconnected and form the primary base for the emergence of Malaysian solidarity actions for Indonesian democracy.

First, moral shock was a powerful initial trigger. This research finds that the escalation of violence during national demonstrations in Indonesia, including the loss of civilian lives, triggered a moral shock among Malaysian activists and civil society. Before these events, the decline of Indonesian democracy may have been understood as an abstract institutional and domestic political issue. But, when the situation escalated into a humanitarian tragedy, with the deaths of civilians by the police, both protesters and non-protesters, the issue of democracy was no longer viewed just as a structural problem, but as a violation of universal values such as the right to life, freedom of expression, and state responsibility.

Second, moral shock then developed into concrete action when combined with collective identity as a bridge for emotional and political closeness between Malaysian and Indonesian societies. This study found that Malaysian solidarity emerged from a shared historical experience and a close regional identity.

Malaysian activists viewed Indonesia's democratic situation not as a completely foreign issue, but as part of the interconnected dynamics of Southeast Asian democracy. Besides the geographical, cultural, and political proximity, shared experiences in facing authoritarianism, restrictions on civil liberties, and a long history of democratic struggles in both countries also allowed the democratic crisis in one country to be perceived as a relevant threat to the other.

Third, this research emphasizes that solidarity is not simply about emotions and identity, it requires concrete networks and mobilization capacity. The September 2, 2025, demonstration in Kuala Lumpur was the result of the work of a network of civil society organizations, student communities, and NGOs that already had an established activism infrastructure in Malaysia. The findings indicate that organizations such as *Mandiri, Federation, HARAM*, and student networks such as the Instagram accounts *newgen.um* and *ligamahasiswa.my* played a crucial role as liaisons, information disseminators, and organizers of the action.

The Malaysian citizen demonstration in front of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur on September 2, 2025, is understood by the author as a form of rooted cosmopolitanism because the action represents transnational solidarity rooted in their own local experiences and contexts, but at the same time oriented towards a universal normative commitment to democracy and human rights. Within this framework, the Malaysian activists do not act as external actors intervening in Indonesia's domestic affairs, but rather as part of a regional moral community that feels a shared responsibility for protecting democratic values in Southeast Asia. The choice of location for the demonstration in front of the Indonesian Embassy also has a strong symbolic means. This research found that diplomatic spaces such as embassies are often being the primary targets for transnational activism because they represent a country outside its territorial boundaries. By standing in front of the Indonesian Embassy, Malaysian activists delivered a direct message to the symbol of the

Indonesian state while also attracting international attention. However, the action was still framed as moral solidarity, not as a political intervention, that showing the importance of legitimacy in transnational activism movements. So with that, this action shows how the concern of the Indonesian democracy issue can transcend national borders without abandoning the attachment to the identity and historical experience of Malaysian society itself, so this solidarity becomes a concrete example of cosmopolitanism that is "rooted" in the social and moral space of the region.

Finally, this study confirms that transnational activism is a rooted, organized, and politically meaningful phenomenon. The demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur were not just an expressions of sympathy, but rather a form of moral and regional awareness that the decline of democracy in Indonesia has broader implications for the future of democracy in Southeast Asia. So that, transnational activism is an important mechanism in defending democratic values and human rights in a diverse regional context.

