

Jakarta governor wins Indonesian presidency

By Niniek Karmini and Ali Kotarumalos
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Jakarta governor Joko Widodo, who captured the hearts of millions of Indonesians with his common man image, was declared the winner of the country's presidential election, calling it a victory for all of the nation's people.

A former furniture exporter known to most as "Jokowi," Widodo was the first candidate in a direct presidential election in Indonesia with no ties to Suharto, the former dictator who ruled for 30 years before being overthrown in 1998.

"This is a victory for all Indonesian people," Widodo, who received 53 percent of the vote according to the Election Commission, said in a televised speech. "We hope this victory will pave the way to build Indonesia to be an independent economy."

The other contender in the July 9 election, former Gen. Prabowo Subianto, declared he was withdrawing from the contest shortly before the final numbers were released by the commission, saying there was massive fraud during the election, and that it was unfair and undemocratic.

Indonesia is a sprawling archipelago of about 17,000 islands and 240 million people, and the commission needed two weeks to count all the votes.

Widodo had maintained a slim lead of about four percentage points in unofficial "quick counts" by polling agencies released after the election. But Subianto, who has declared assets of \$140 million and was on his third bid for the presidency, repeatedly



claimed that polling firms with links to his campaign showed he was ahead.

"We reject the 2014 presidential election, which is illegitimate, and therefore we withdraw from the ongoing process," he said.

Observers of the election said they were generally fair and free, with minimal abnormalities. Maswadi Rauf, a political professor at the University of Indonesia, said he saw no sign of significant fraud, as alleged by Subianto.

Subianto's rejection of the results "reflects the real attitudes of the elite, who are not yet ready to accept losing," Rauf said. "We are still in a transition to democracy, which is indeed not our culture. And what is happening indicates we are still immature, we need to learn."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry congratulated Widodo on his election victory, and said the U.S. and Indonesia share common values, including respect for human rights and the rule of law.

"The United States looks forward to working with President-elect Widodo as we deepen our partnership," Kerry said in a statement.

In Jakarta, there were no immediate reports of violence. About 100 Subianto supporters held a peaceful protest about 300 yards from the Election Commission building in the city's downtown, chanting "Prabowo is the real president" and holding banners saying that the commission should stop cheating.

The building was surrounded by thousands of policemen to maintain security after a particularly nasty presidential campaign marred by smear tactics from both camps. Widodo blamed his drop in opinion polls in the weeks before the election on character assaults that accused him, among other things, of not being a follower of Islam — a charge that he denounced.

Indonesia has the world's fourth-largest population and is the most populous

JOKOWI VICTORY. Indonesian president-elect Joko Widodo, center, greets supporters with his "three-finger greeting" symbolizing the "Unity of Indonesia," the third of Indonesia's five principles, during a gathering in Jakarta last month. Jakarta governor Widodo, known to most as "Jokowi," was declared the winner after all the votes were counted. (AP Photo/Dita Alangkara)

Muslim country.

Despite Widodo's lack of experience in national politics, he built a reputation as being a man of the people and an efficient leader who wants to advance democratic reforms, and was elected to run Jakarta, the capital, in 2012. He is widely viewed as untainted by the often corrupt military and business elite that have run Indonesia for decades.

Subianto, meanwhile, a general in the Suharto regime and the late dictator's former son-in-law, came from a wealthy, well-known family. He had a dubious human-rights record during his military career, but was seen as a strong and decisive leader. His campaign was better financed and he received endorsements from most of the country's major political parties, including that of outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who served two terms lasting 10 years and was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election.

Final results showed that Widodo, from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, received just under 71 million votes, or 53 percent of the more than 133 million valid ballots cast, while Subianto got 62.6 million votes, or 47 percent.

Voter turnout was 71 percent, down slightly from the 2009 presidential election, when it was 72 percent.

Chinese man brings gay conversion therapy lawsuit

By Louise Watt
The Associated Press

BEIJING — A gay Chinese man has reported that he's suing a psychological clinic for carrying out electric shocks intended to turn him straight, as well as the search engine giant Baidu for advertising the center.

The Beijing LGBT Center, which campaigns for gay rights, said it was the first court case involving so-called conversion therapy in China.

China declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 2001.

The center's executive director, Xin Ying, said some professional hospitals in China, as well as smaller private clinics, still provide conversion therapy and that the group hopes the case at the Haidian District People's Court in Beijing will lead to a ban on the therapy.

Yang Teng, 30, told The Associated Press that the therapy given to him included hypnosis and electric shock and he



was left physically and mentally hurt. He said he voluntarily underwent the therapy in February following pressure from his parents to get married and have a child.

"My hometown is a small city, people

there still care about carrying on the family line," Yang said, adding that now he can finally accept his homosexuality.

His lawyer, Li Duilong, said Yang was suing the Chongqing Xinyu Piaoxiang

CONVERSION CENTER PROTESTED.

Gay rights campaigners hold up banners before a protest outside a court where the first court case in China involving so-called conversion therapy is being held in Beijing, China. A gay Chinese man is suing a psychological clinic for carrying out electric shocks intended to turn him straight, as well as the search engine giant Baidu for advertising the center. The words on the banners read (L-R) "Gay, No Need to be Treated," "Support Haidian Court, Against Twisted Treatment," and "Ms. Baidu Promotes Gay Treatment by Li Yanhong." (Li Yanhong is the chairman of Baidu). (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

clinic for infringing his personal and health rights because they told him electric shock treatment was not dangerous, but then harmed his health. He also said that Baidu bore joint liability because it carried its advertisement.

Li said part of their argument was that homosexuality was not a disease and should not be treated.

"According to the law, both sides should sign an agreement before electric shock or hypnosis is carried out, but (the clinic) did

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