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Jakarta attacks not sign of country tipping into fundamentalism

Elizabeth Pisani

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Isis does not enjoy any great wave of popular support in Indonesia, writes Elizabeth Pisani



A small group of young men armed with guns and explosives attacked a Starbucks coffee shop and a police post in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Thursday. Now the world's media are asking: is the largest Muslim-majority nation in danger of abandoning moderation and tipping into Islamist fundamentalism?

Those who fear that it is seize on other markers of growing extremism in this constitutionally multifaith nation. They point to Islamic vigilante groups who regularly attack churches and nightclubs and shut down proposed tours by musicians such as Lady Gaga. They highlight the fact that local politicians throughout the country have been passing regulations enforcing