

## Abstract

This study aims at investigating the dynamics between welfare regime and labour union activism in post-Suharto Indonesia. It examines the politics of the National Social Security System Law (SJSN Law) and Social Security Administration Agency Law (BPJS Law), and the outcomes of BPJS Health and BPJS Labour social insurance schemes towards workers and labour unions activism. This study uses qualitative research methods through semi-structured interviews with labour activists and secondary data analysis of formal publications and official statistics. This study argues that the change to a more inclusive welfare regime had facilitated labour union activism towards expanding and realising the rights for social security. The revitalised labour union movement in post-Suharto Indonesia shifted their strategy towards representing broader social interests for social security, forging alliance with other social groups, and successfully pushed for a comprehensive social security reforms when opportunity for reforms emerged. Although the new national social security system has greatly extended social rights for workers and provided them with expanded social security coverage and benefits, the extent of de-commodification is still limited due to several problems with how the social security system is designed. Nevertheless, labour unions in Indonesia utilise their newly won social rights and increasingly expanded their strategies and activism to include the realisation of not just the workers' but also the people's rights for social security. The findings of this study offer several implications for the study of labour and public policy.

**Keywords:** Welfare regime, labour union activism, National Social Security System, BPJS, social insurance, social rights