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The following is a copy of an article about Bapak Waleed that ran in the Berita Harian newspaper of Singapore on 5 June 2009. The English translation follows.

## Peluk Islam dan jelajah dunia hasil seni silat

Oleh LINILIDIA ABDUL HAMID  
*lini@sph.com.sg*

CINTANYA terhadap pencak silat berputik lebih 28 tahun lalu. Bahkan, silat membawanya memeluk Islam sekitar 19 tahun lalu.

Ia juga membawa Encik Muhd Khalid Ibn Waleed, yang nama asalnya, Leonardo J. Stoute, ke serata dunia, termasuk institut pengajian tinggi ulung Yale dan Harvard di Amerika Syarikat.

Encik Stoute, yang lebih senang dipanggil Bapak Waleed dan bergelar profesor, sering diundang memberi ceramah tentang seni silat di dua universiti itu.

Malah, beliau pernah diundang ke Universiti Yale untuk memberi ceramah tentang nilai-nilai pemulihan yang boleh diraih dengan mengamalkan seni silat.

Sebelum mengenali silat, Bapak Waleed pakar seni bela diri taekwondo dan kungfu serta mempunyai akademi seni mempertahankan dirinya sendiri di Michigan, Amerika.

Beliau memiliki tali pinggang hitam dalam taekwondo dan tali pinggang merah dalam kungfu – pangkat tertinggi dalam kedua-dua seni mempertahankan diri itu.

Ditemui ketika berada di sini baru-baru ini, Bapak Waleed, 53 tahun, berkata beliau jatuh cinta pada seni silat setelah diperkenalkan kepadanya oleh seorang lelaki asal Sumatera.

Bapak Waleed, yang hanya ingin memberi nama lelaki itu sebagai Encik Siregar, ber-



**SEBAR ILMU SILAT:** Bapak Waleed sering diundang memberi ceramah tentang seni silat, termasuk nilai pemulihannya, di universiti Yale dan Harvard. – Foto TUNI SHARIFF

kata pertemuan beliau dengannya sungguh tidak diduga dan membuka matanya kepada keindahan seni silat.

“Saya belajar silat hampir 10 tahun dengan Encik Siregar. Dalam jangka masa itu saya berulang-alik ke Sumatera dari Amerika sebelum Encik Siregar akhirnya menyuruh saya mencari guru kerohanian,” katanya.

Menurut Bapak Waleed, dari situlah beliau mengenali Islam yang akhirnya membuka pintu hatinya mengucapkan dua kalimah syahadah pada 11 Januari 1991.

“Setelah memeluk Islam saya mendapati saya dapat lebih mendalam dan menghayati apa sebenarnya seni silat,” ujar beliau.

Ini mendorongnya menyebarkan pengetahuan tentang silat dan agama Islam kepada para pelajarnya. Silat telah membawanya ke negara-negara seperti Turkey, Afrika Selatan, Mesir, Jepun dan beberapa negara di Eropah.

Malah, beliau, yang dilahirkan di Panama, Amerika Selatan, sering diundang ke Indonesia untuk mengajar seni silat, kata Bapak Waleed.

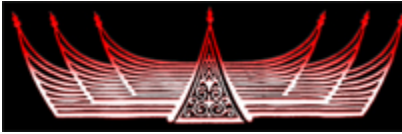
Usaha beliau mengembangkan seni silat di serata dunia telah diiktiraf Datuk Bandar Padang, Sumatera Barat, yang menganugerahkannya ‘kunci bandar’ itu pada 2004.



## RESULTS FROM THE ART OF SILAT, TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AND BELIEF IN ISLAM

Original author: Linilidia Abdul Hamid

HIS love towards Silat began more than 28 years ago. And, this love of Silat has lead him to enter spirituality and believe in Islam around 19 years ago.



Silat has also brought Mr. Muhammad Khalid Ibn Waleed, whose original name is Leonardo J Stoute, around the world, including Yale University and Harvard University in the USA.

Mr. Stoute, often recognized as Bapak Waleed or addressed as professor, is frequently invited to give talks about the art of Silat between the two universities.

Furthermore, he has been invited to Yale University to host a speech about attitudes which can be associated with mastering the art of Silat.

Before being introduced to Silat, Bapak Waleed was an expert in Taekwondo and Kung-fu, the martial arts. He also possessed an academic background of the art of self-defense from Michigan, USA.

He achieved the black belt in Taekwondo and red belt in Kung-fu, which are the highest levels of achievement in both the martial arts.

Bapak Waleed said he fell in love with art of Silat after being introduced to it by a gentleman from Sumatera.

Bapak Waleed said the gentleman only wished to be addressed as Mr Siregar. Their meeting was not expected and it opened his eyes to the beauty of the art of Silat.

"I learned Silat for almost 10 years from Mr Siregar. During that period, I flew between Sumatera and US until Mr Siregar asked me to look for my own mentor from my heart" he said.

According to Bapak Waleed, since then he became familiar with Islam and his heart was opened to the light of spirituality and Tariqat and so he accepted Islam for himself on 11 Jan 1991.

"After believing in Islam and entering the spiritual way, I realized I understood better and appreciated more the real meaning behind the art of Silat" he added.

His coming into Tariqat (spirituality) encouraged him to share the knowledge of Silat and the beauty of South East Asian cultures to his students. And this further led him to look for the spiritual connections in those cultures and traditions that are associated with Silat. He has brought traditional Silat and Minang culture over to many countries, such as Turkey, South Africa, Egypt, Japan and some countries in Europe.

Nevertheless, he who was born in Panama, South America, is regularly invited back to Indonesia to teach Silat.

His great efforts in expanding and introducing the art of Silat to students worldwide has lead to receiving the award "Kunci Bandar" (The Key to the City), from the Datuk Bandar Padang, West Sumatera in 2004.