



by guest writer **Brendan Lanza**

I have been involved with silat for a number of years now; it is a passion and a way of life. My background included other martial arts as well. I have seen a number of teachers and have been in a number of sparring matches in my time. I came to Malaysia in an attempt to find out more about how modern silat was progressing, first hand, in the “cradle of silat,” (Southeast Asia) so to speak.

To say that I was disappointed would be an understatement. There are some amazing silat practitioners here and in Indonesia as well, however they are becoming fewer and fewer, many of the local youth don't even know what silat is. This is a result of the “Kampung mentality” where many of the locals of the previous generation, parents of the present generation, felt that silat was a village art and favoured sending their kids to learn TaeKwonDo or Karate. The Chinese community here also seldom celebrates its kung fu styles from their homeland. In the past few years I have only seen one school that teaches Wushu and one program in a national school that teaches amateur Wushu as well. This is surprising as 30% of this country is in fact Chinese.

In the first months of my arrival I felt very down about this, but I was content enough to seclude myself to practicing my Cimande and Sera which are deadly pencak silat arts in their own right. This is when I met Guru Scott McQuaid and was introduced to Silek Harimau Minangkabau from the Richard Carbbe de-Bordes lineage. How I met him and how he came to know that I practice silat is a matter that I won't go into here as I explain it elsewhere. Suffice it to say that my Cimande teacher told me to seek him out because what he does is quite “real,” and our groups are quite friendly with each other. How this came to happened is not for here and now, but I will tell you about what I found when I went to my first training session with Guru Scott and how I was introduced to his dark art.



