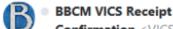
Indonesian Police Block 398 Online Users' Accounts in West Java



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[AH11 170118, AntoniusHerujiyanto USD Yk]

The upcoming regional elections (June 27, 2018) have been responded by the Provincial Police of East Java by conducting the so-called Cyber patrol. It is meant to prevent the spreading of hate speeches, hoax and racial and religious issues (referred to locally as SARA or ethnicity, religion, race and class) from taking place during the events.

According to the spokesperson of East Java provincial police, Grand Commissioner Frans Barung Mangera, his institution has strongly suspected as many as 1,524 online users' accounts as having planned to disturb the elections.

They finally decided to block 398 online users' accounts.

"If we fail to block them, we would take them down," he was quoted as saying by Viva.co.id in Jakarta on Wednesday (17 January).

He also said that not only were their IP addresses unclear, but many of them were found to have spread up hoax and SARA issues.

Mentioning that the East Java provincial police have assigned their 26 thousand officers, he said that there would be eventually supported by 80 thousand volunteers (from both national and Islamic community organizations) and six thousand members of TNI or the Indonesian Armed Forces.

The regional elections in East Java will be held in 18 regencies along with the East Java gubernatorial election.

Source: ASyakira,suara-islam/read/kabar/daerah/24776/Berdalih-Redam-Isu-SARA-Polda-Jatim-Tutup-398-Akun-Medsos, "Berdalih Redam Isu SARA, Polda Jatim Tutup 398 Akun Medsos (Provincial Police of East Java block 398 online users' accounts)", in Indonesian, 17 Jan 18.

Broadcast Date/Time	Headline	Source	Status	Country		 Date/Time Submitted	
0000 GMT, 17/01/18	Indonesian police block 398 online users' accounts in West Java [AH11_170118]	INSEM1	EDT	INDONESIA	258	 1922 GMT, 21/01/18	Clone