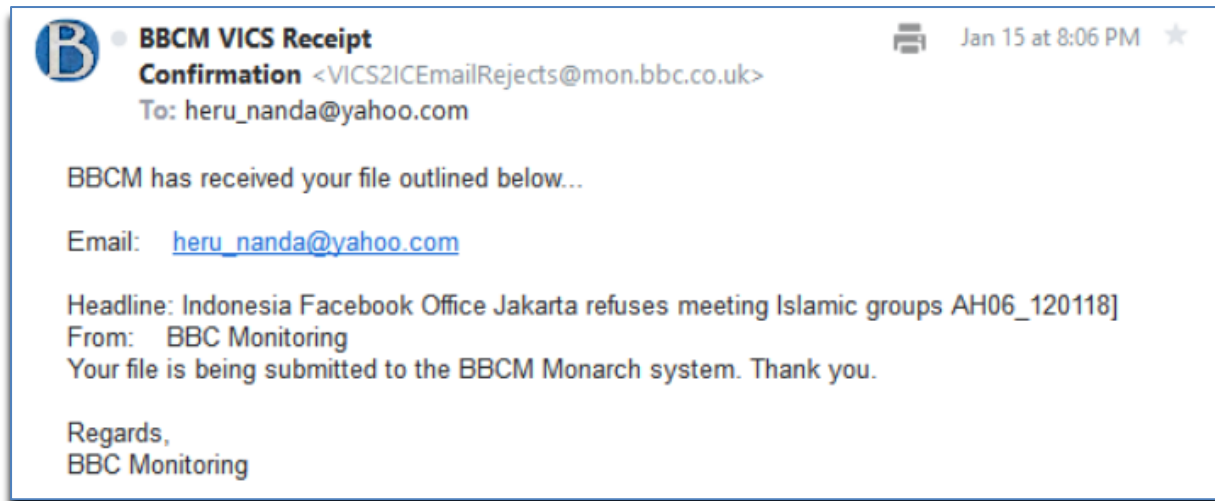


# Indonesia Facebook Office Jakarta Refuses Meeting Islamic Groups



[AH06\_120118, AntoniusHerujiyanto USD\_Yk]

The management of the Facebook's Indonesia office has refused to meet the representatives of the so-called "121 Actions", a protest staged by thousands of the members of the so-called Alliance Refusing Tyrannical Facebook [ARTF]. The Alliance consists of Islamic groups such as, among others, the Defenders of Islam Front or FPI, SAPA Islam or Greeting Islam, Kaum Umat Islam or the Indonesia Muslims, and many more. The rally took place on Friday (12 January).

According to the lawyer of the Alliance, Eggi Sudjana, the very management is a cowardly failure to meet the representatives of ARTF. He said that it should have been professional, being responsible for providing the Islamic groups with clarification and reasons to have blocked at least 53 of ARTF's online groups.

"Such a social media giant should have appropriately understood how to exercise their democratic views," he was quoted as saying by hidayatullah.com during the rally outside Facebook's Jakarta headquarters at Capital Place building in Gatot Subroto Street.

Eggi also said that the social media had made Indonesian Muslims restless.

Mentioning that ARTF has submitted the list of its demands to the Capital Place building's administrators, he said that unless they would lift the bans by Monday (on 15 January), the groups would stage another rally, asking for clarification of the blocking.

The co-ordinator of ARTF, Habib Ali Abu Bakar Alatas, said that the Facebook's Indonesia office should have been fair. Not only had they blocked the Muslims' online da'wah and that of the humanitarian one, but the very management had also prevented the Islamic groups' online from carrying the reports of their Islamic activities.

Expressing his disappointment, Habib complained that the management of the social media had, indeed, done nothing towards the online carrying religious blasphemy, ulema defamation, pornographic materials, LGBT activities, and many more.

In the meantime, the spokesperson of the Facebook's Indonesia office said that not only would the social media allow people to appropriately use Facebook, namely, meeting the media's community standards, but it would also encourage people to challenge ideas and raise awareness about important issues. Doing otherwise such as promoting violence and hatred against other people, however, would automatically make the media administration remove it.

Source: Zul/MAS,hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2018/01/12/132929/didemo-facebook-indonesia-tak-temui-perwakilan-ribuan-massa.html, "Didemo, Facebook Indonesia Tak Temui Perwakilan Ribuan Massa (Indonesia Facebook refuses to meet representatives of Islamic groups)", in Indonesian, 12 Jan 18.

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