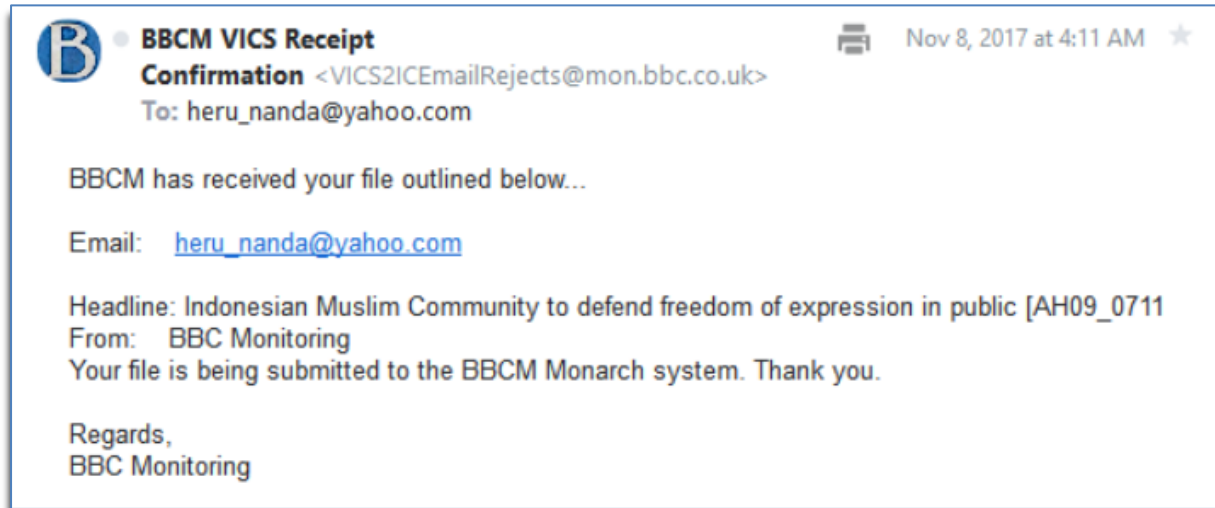


Indonesian Muslim Community To Defend Freedom of Expression in Public



[AH09_071117 AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

In response to the fatwa [religious ruling] issued by the general chairman of NU (the largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), cleric Said Aqil Siradj, and NU's Youth Wing, Banser Ansor, the Official Organization of the Indonesian Muslim Bachelor of Law Community (KSHUMI) has refused any forms of restrictions against the freedom of expression in public. They also officially issued a press release on Monday (6 November).

The fatwa, which is opposed by the Islamic Broadcasting Institute (LPI) says that it is banned to attend the da'wah (Islamic sermons) delivered by cleric Bachtiar Nasir [an Islamic important figure of Muhammadiyah (the second largest Islamic community organization in the country)].

The same fatwa also bans the da'wah delivered by any members of the [conservative] National Movement to Save the Indonesian Ulema Council's Edicts (GNPF-MUI), the [conservative] Council of Indonesian Young Muslims Scholars and Intellectuals (MIUMI), the Koran Learning Centre (AQL Centre), the Islamic Preachers of TRANS TV and its group, and the general chairman of the [radical] Defenders of Islam Front (LPI).

Not only is KSHUMI against the very fatwa, but it also condemns the discrimination acts conducted by Banser Ansor against cleric Felix Siau, Khalid Basalamah, Firanda Andirja, Bachtiar Nasir, Shobri Lubis, and many more.

It was also reported that many da'wah activities held by those (conservative) cleric had been guarded by the Youth Wing of Muhammadiyah or KOKAM Muhammadiyah, the [conservative] Muslim Youth, and other [radical] Islamic Youth organizations.

The press release (No. 015/PS-RESMI/DPN-KSHUMI/XI/2017) of KSHUMI was signed by its National executive chairman Chandra Purna Irawan, and two members of its National Council, namely, Kamilov Sagala and Miko Kamal, respectively.

The four items of the press release are as follows:

To refuse any forms of restriction against the freedom of expression in public; to refuse any criminalization against ulema, Islamic activists and Muslims including Islamic teachings and symbols.

To remind the Indonesian government to be always present and involved in mediating and finding the best solutions to any legal problems within the society; to always commit to highly respect the concept of the constitutional state and not to make wrong use of the power.

To encourage the government and all elements of the people and nation to be actively and transparently involved in many different national dialogues in order to find the best solutions to all problems faced by the Nation and state.

To call on ulema, Islamic activists, Muslims and all Indonesian Muslim Bachelor of Law to be united and synergized in developing the strength and solidity to struggle for Islam becoming the blessings for the whole Universe.

Source: KS/MK/pers-rilis, [voa-islam/read/pers-rilis/2017/11/07/54209/kshumi-menolak-segala-bentuk-pengekangan-hak-menyampaikan-pendapat-di-muka-umum/#sthash.W7iMCez2.dpbs](https://www.voaindonesia.com/read/pers-rilis/2017/11/07/54209/kshumi-menolak-segala-bentuk-pengekangan-hak-menyampaikan-pendapat-di-muka-umum/#sthash.W7iMCez2.dpbs), "KSHUMI: Menolak Segala Bentuk Pengekangan Hak Menyampaikan Pendapat Di Muka Umum (KSHUMI refuses any forms of restriction against the freedom of expression in public)", in Indonesian, 07 Nov 17.

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