

Rohingya Army Officially Denies Those Interviewed in International Media



[AH03_031017_AntoniusHerujiyanto_USD_Yk]

There were hot reports saying that some International media had claimed to have managed to interview ARSA [the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army] in Bangladesh. Those interviewees also claimed to be the combatants or the commandants or even commander-in-chief of ARSA.

Finally, it was high time for ARSA to officially provide the world with an official statement Thursday (on 28 September), explaining about the issues through its press release carried in its Twitter @ARSA_Official.

It says that none of ARSA's members has ever been involved in any interviews with any media. In fact, it does not authorize any person to be interviewed [with any media] on behalf of ARSA in Bangladesh.

It is very unfortunate, therefore, that some International media have, indeed, interviewed those individuals without having any proper verification whether or not they genuinely represent ARSA. It is too bad that these people are exposed, then, to the world community.

Mentioning two media, *Channel News Asia* and *France 24 English*, it is said in the press release that both media have exposed those claiming themselves as members and even a commander of ARSA.

In *Channel News Asia*, for example, it could be followed how Jack Board had interviewed "Muhammad Rafik" (who claimed himself as a deputy commander of ARSA) and then Abul Alam, claiming himself as an ARSA combatant, in its report entitled "Fleeing Rohingya accept suffering and exile in exchange for world's attention."

In *France 24 English*, there could also be seen a man named Armen (who claimed himself as a local commander of ARSA) was being interviewed under the title, "Exclusive ARSA leader interview: We are not terrorists!" The very less than two minute video was also carried in Youtube with blurred Armen's face.

ARSA is not responsible for any word uttered by these individuals since they are not the official representatives of ARSA.

Source: SI/JM,kiblat/2017/10/01/muncul-orang-orang-mengaku-arsa-di-media-ini-bantahan-resminya/, "Muncul Orang-orang Mengaku ARSA di Media, Ini Bantahan Resminya (ARSA officially denies those interviewed in International media)", in Indonesian, 01 Oct 17.

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