

Indonesian Press Council: Not To Directly Publish Religious Sermons



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH21_150418]

Indonesian press Council seems to believe that respecting the substance, or rather the content of [Islamic] sermons is very important but personal in the sense that one's religion is a personal matter. An important figure of the Council, Jimmy Silalahi, has suggested, therefore, that journalists and reporters not to carry the content of the sermons on their media without first of all consulting it with the da'i or the preachers in question.

"The Council does not recommend to treat such sermons as news that can be reported without consulting it with the very preachers or other sources," he was quoted as saying by Republika Daily on Sunday (15 April).

His statement was delivered when he was a keynote speaker in a media gathering recently held by Bawaslu or the Indonesian Election Supervisory Agency in Bogor, West Java.

Admitting that the sermons could be publically delivered in open spaces and even with loudspeakers, he said that unlike non-religious speeches, the religious ones and sermons should be treated as private.

If the sermons are considered interesting and worth quoting, the press might ask for further clarification about it by, for example, interviewing the preachers as well as finding other sources to compare or further complete the materials to report.

Mentioning the nature of journalistic principles, Jimmy Silalahi talked about the obligation for reporters to check and recheck including to confirm and verify other parties or sources.

Source: [IF,kiblat/2018/04/15/dewan-pers-isi-khutbah-tidak-bisa-langsung-jadi-berita/](#), "*Dewan Pers: Isi Khutbah Tidak Bisa Langsung Jadi Berita (Indonesian National Press Council: Contents of sermons as raw data cannot be directly treated and published as news)*", in Indonesian, 15 April 18.

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