

Becoming Journalists with Islamic Values and Impartial Attitudes



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH19_140418]

In response to the present Indonesian “political year”, a member of *Jurnalis Indonesia Bersatu* or the United Islamic Journalists, Beggy Rizkiyansyah, has said that Indonesian people are exposed to completely naked partiality of the media. Not only are they impressed by the “partisan” media with their making no attempt to be objective, but they are also shown to how media becoming the actors of political propaganda.

Highlighting Mark Fisherman’s important opinion that News story tend to reflect the practice of the workers in the organizations that produce news, he said that neutrality would be luxurious attitude that cannot be automatically embedded to the press. Being balanced in judging a certain fact would only, therefore, become a method to implement not an objective to achieve.

To him, being impartial is not the one being expected. As a result, there is no problem for a journalist with his or her own ideology and values.

A Muslim journalist should only be understood to be with his or her Islamic values in any situation including when covering an event. The Islamic values would be automatically becoming the spectacles to see realities. At the same time, however, the so-called being factual and disciplined in conducting the verification would not be left behind.

He further said that it was only weird to believe that in order to be independent a journalist should forget his or her religious identities.

Muslim journalists and Islamic media or Islamic press do not need to be doubtful in implementing or expressing their Islamic values. After all being transparent on their attitudes would become parts of their being honest and sincere in producing their reports, namely, based on the facts.

To claim implementing value free as a sign of being impartial has become, therefore, questionable, or rather, unreasonable.

The worst thing is when claiming to be impartial while in reality supporting groups, figures, or political parties. Such a manipulative attitude is similar to trying to hide their being loyal to a certain political party or faction by wearing Islamic robes and shouting “independent slogans”. Any journalist should, indeed, be loyal to the purpose or objective rather than to a certain faction or political party.

Mentioning a real example in Indonesia, he said that those groups of MNC Media belong to Perindo Party; Metro TV, in the meantime, was founded by Nasdem Party.

Muslim journalists and Islamic media should, therefore, try hard not to fall into such an inappropriate and massive phenomena in the country. They do not need to become journalists with political practise and become partial.

The best thing to do is to become a journalist or media with Islamic values and impartial attitude.

Source: Ameerah/ BR, <https://www.annah.com/2018/04/14/bisakah-pers-netral/>, "Bisakah Pers Netral? (Can press be impartial?)", in Indonesian, 14 April 18.

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