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South East Asian NGOs Protest against Facebook

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[AntoniusHerujiyanto AH24_16 0418]

The Non-Governmental Organizations in South East Asia represented by 20 organizations and 74 people seem to join the so-called conspiracy theory that Facebook has some way of keeping tabs on its users by, among others, tapping into the mics on people's smartphones. This can be reflected from their recent demand that CEO Facebook Mark Zuckerberg protect their privacy especially against hate speeches in the very social media.

According to the Regional Coordinator of SAFEnet, Damar Juniarto, they have written an open letter to Zuckerberg.

First they demanded that Facebook provide them with a guarantee on the safety of their personal data and not to pass the data to the third parties. They reasoned that such demands were meant to prevent their personal things from being misused to gain certain political and economic benefits.

To immediately audit those "illegal" work done by the third parties as seen in the scandal of **Cambridge Analytica** and other similar applications, and publically report his findings.

To tightly implement data protection mechanism so that Facebook would be made use to accommodate those willing to spread up hate speeches.

Mentioning that the open letter was part of those demanded by the Global South Coalition [comprising of Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Philippines], Damar said about the bad situations taking place in the very three countries.

In Myanmar, for example, Facebook had been made use to spread up fake information agitating people to detest against the minority Islamic Rohingya, causing 6,700 of them got killed, while as many as 645.000 of them became refugees in Bangladesh. In the meantime, the on line users becoming the victims in Sri Lanka were as many as 5.9 million people.

In Indonesia, there were 1.40 million victims, endangering and threatening Indonesian democracy.

According to SAFEnet, Facebook has also become a perfect place to persecute, spread up hate speeches, and to violate minority groups' human rights in the name of religion.

Source: Fath,<u>arrahmah/2018/04/16/20-organisasi-sipil-asia-tenggara-tuntut-perlindungan-facebook/,</u> "20 Organisasi Sipil Asia Tenggara Tuntut Perlindungan Facebook (South East Asian NGOs demand that Mark Zuckerberg protect the privacy of Facebook's online users)", in Indonesian, 16 April 18.

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