

# Indonesian Alliance Calls Police Enemies of Press Freedom



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH05\_040518]

The chairman of the Indonesian Independent Journalists Alliance or AJI, Abdul Manan, has said that Polri or the Indonesian National Police are the 2018 enemies of Indonesian Press freedom. He said Thursday (on 3 May) that they have been the main perpetrators of the violent actions against the country's journalists and media from May 2017 up to May 2018.

In AJI's official Twitter, it is mentioned that on top of violent actions, during the regional elections that will take place in June (2018) and the 2019 presidential elections, Indonesian press freedom has also been threatened.

Learning from the political year in 2014, AJI is expecting that media would not, again, fall into the trap of neglecting their functions and roles. They should remain impartial. Otherwise they would, again, produce inappropriate situation within the people.

Admittedly, the partiality attitudes were due to media economic excuses, since political advertisements would be significant incomes to media. On the other hand, some owners of Indonesian media happen to be important political figures or else to be close to certain political parties.

According to AJI, the Press Council has clearly stated that in its decree No. 01/SE-DP/I/2018, saying that media function as Supervising and Monitoring institutes. It is also about media position and the journalists' impartiality during the 2018 regional elections and the 2019 general elections.

The Indonesian Press Council also declares that any journalists participating in any political activities are considered to have no more legitimacy of being journalists.

In the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, AJI declares the following items.

To declare Indonesian police as the enemies of Press freedom from May 2017 up to May 2018 (#WPFD2018 #WPFDAJI2018).

To urge the Indonesian security authorities to seriously process the reports on violent actions against journalists and media (#WPFD2018 #WPFDAJI2018).

To call and invite the people and mass organizations to find the best solutions to cases on media reports in accordance to the law (#WPFD2018 #WPFDAJI2018).

To urge the owners of media to maintain independency of editorial spaces for the sakes of public interests and democracy (Law No. 40/1999 on Press) and not to make use of editorial spaces for the practical political interests (#WPFD2018 #WPFDAJI2018).

To call Indonesia journalists to professionally do their jobs in accordance to the Codes and Law No. 40/1999 on Press (#WPFD2018 #WPFDAJI2018).

Source: Robi, [voa-islam/read/politik-indonesia/2018/05/04/57708/aji-indonesia-sebut-polisi-musuh-kebebasan-pers/#sthash.4EWK0f18.dpbs](https://voa-islam/read/politik-indonesia/2018/05/04/57708/aji-indonesia-sebut-polisi-musuh-kebebasan-pers/#sthash.4EWK0f18.dpbs), "AJI Indonesia sebut Polisi Musuh Kebebasan Pers (AJI calls Polri enemies of Indonesian from May 2017 up to May 2018)", in Indonesian, 4 May 18.

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