

Indonesian Journalists Urge No Criminal Articles against Journalists



[Antonius Herujianto AH04_030518]

The General Chairman of the Indonesian Independent Journalists Alliance or AJI, Abdul Manan, has regretted that the 2018 Indonesia Press Freedom Index or PFI (it is as the same as it was in 2017, namely 124) is due to legal, political and economic atmosphere in the country. He said Thursday (on 3 May) that the stagnant Index had suggested that Indonesian press freedom was threatening.

According to him, some articles in the Indonesian Criminal Code or KUHP and the Electronic, Information and Transaction Law or ITE Law have contributed to such a threatening situation.

Mentioning that the situation of the 2018 world PFI was equally threatening, he said that it had caused both the world journalists and media workers in general experience many different unpleasant situation where they were unable to exercise their freedom of expression.

In their report entitled "Hatred of Journalism Threatens Democracies," the International institute on advocacy of violent actions against journalists, the Reporters Without Borders or RSF, has pointed out that the present world trend including the attitude of the administrators of the so-called democratic countries is hostility against media.

In Indonesia, it is admitted that the government has, indeed, revised and amended its ITE Law (in 2016), but AJI regrets that the criminal articles against media have not been revoked yet.

Abdul Manan said that the government together with the House of Representatives or DPR had also revised the Indonesian Criminal Code, but they had never listened to the aspirations of the press communities. As a result the criminal articles against journalists in the code have never been removed. Admittedly, all of the hindrances negatively affect the Indonesian PFI.

Repeating that AJI rejects the present bill on Criminal Code, he insisted that the criminal articles against journalists in the Code be removed. The Law on Press would take care of Journalists' cases.

Source: Q/MR, [kiblat/2018/05/03/ancam-kebebasan-pers-pemerintah-didesak-revisi-sejumlah-regulasi/](https://www.kiblat.com/2018/05/03/ancam-kebebasan-pers-pemerintah-didesak-revisi-sejumlah-regulasi/), "Kebebasan Pers, Pemerintah Didesak Revisi Sejumlah Regulasi (Indonesian government urged to remove articles threatening Press Freedom in both KUHP and ITE Law)", in Indonesian, 3 May 18.

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