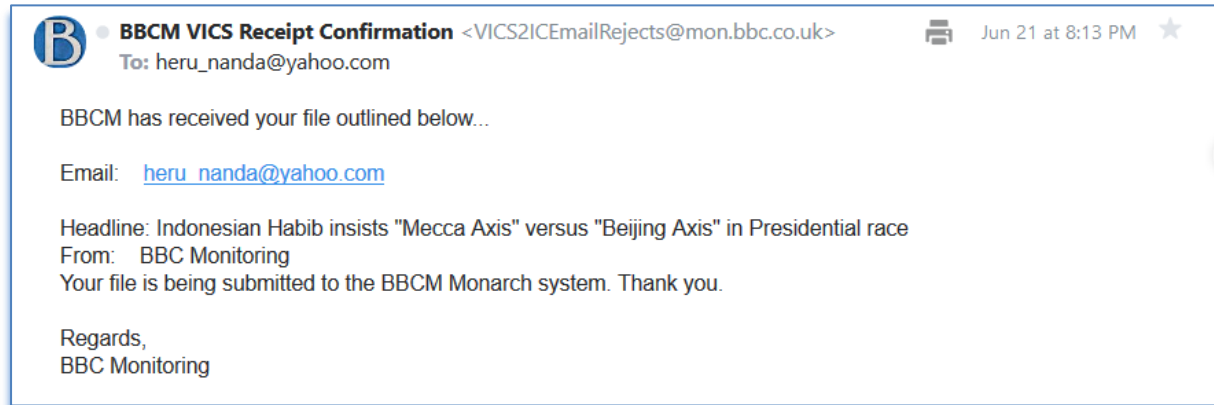


Indonesian Habib Insists “Mecca Axis” versus “Beijing Axis” in Presidential Race



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH14_180618]

Muhamad Idrus, the Secretary General of the coalition of three political parties, Gerindra-PKS-PAN, has said that Grand Imam of FPI [the (radical) Defenders of Islam Front] Habib Rizieq Shihab has strongly recommended that the 2019 (April) Presidential elections be carried out with two presidential hopefuls, namely, a race between “Mecca Axis” versus that “Beijing Axis”.

In response to such an idea, the chairman of Golkar Party Ace Hasan Syadzily disagreed with him, saying Sunday (on 17 June) that it was not the right time to talk about it.

According to him it is not the right time for Habib Rizieq to talk about it during the Eid al-Fitr season in Indonesia.

Questioning about Habib Rizieq’s terms of “Mecca Axis” and “Beijing Axis”, Ace Hasan said it was not proper to use the name of foreign countries’ cities and states to talk about Indonesian political affairs. He added that it was not the business of other countries.

Mentioning the term “Beijing Axis” (to name and identify President Jokowi) which seems to show that Jokowi is pro-China (to judge that Jokowi is pro President Xi Jinping’s policies) was inappropriate at all, he strongly questioned Habib Rizieq’s terms of “Mecca Axis”, pointing out that Saudi Arabia has put its investment in China as much as IDR 870 billion while in Indonesia only IDR 89 billion.

Ace Hasan Syadzily also criticized Habib for using tendentious term on Jokowi’s administration, while claiming himself to be the most Islamic person in the world.

To him, it is not for the very first time for Habib Rizieq to use such terms.

Source: [DTK, eramuslim/berita/nasional/hrs-bilang-pilpres-akan-berhadapan-poros-mekkah-vs-poros-beijing-politisi-golkar-keberatan.htm](https://www.beritasatu.com/berita/nasional/hrs-bilang-pilpres-akan-berhadapan-poros-mekkah-vs-poros-beijing-politisi-golkar-keberatan.htm), “HRS Bilang Pilpres Akan Berhadapan Poros Mekkah VS Poros Beijing, Politisi Golkar Keberatan (Habib Rizieq demands there should be only “Mecca Axis” versus “Beijing Axis” in 2019 Presidential race)”, in *Indonesian*, 18 June 18.

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