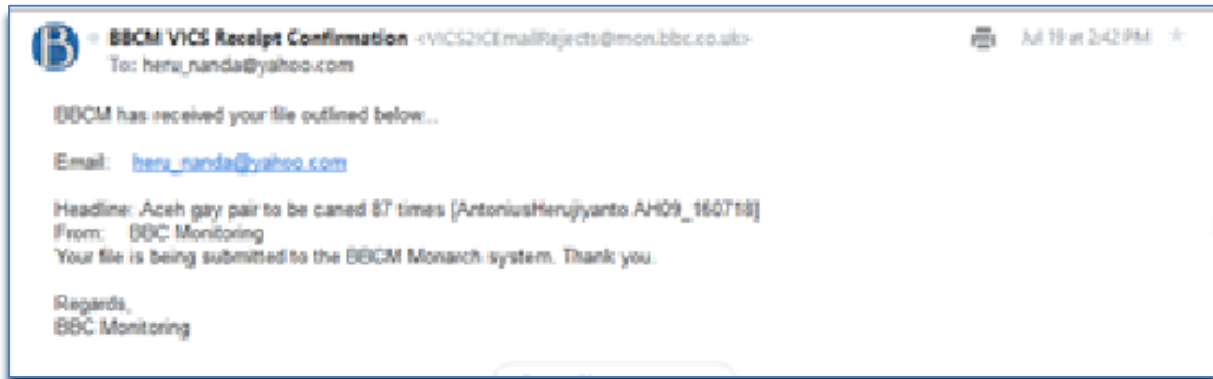


Aceh Gay Pair To Be Caned 87 Times



[AntoniusHerujianto AH09_160718]

The indignity of a public caning for the offense of qanun or the Aceh Bylaws has, again, taken place in Banda Aceh. The victims, a pair of gays (Nyakrab-M Rustam) have been caned 86 times each by three *algojo* or executioners. It was carried out in front of hundreds of local people in the yard of Baiturrahim Mosque, Ulee Lheue, Meuraxa, Banda Aceh, on Friday (13 July).

According to Shari'a Court of Banda Aceh City, they have to be caned for 90 times for having violated the religious bylaw on sexual relations [in this case is with the same sex]. As they have been imprisoned for four months, they would be canned 86 times each.

It was for the second times that the administration of Banda Aceh City executing a pair of gays. The first one took place in Lamgugop Mosque, Banda Aceh last year.

Besides the execution of Nyakrab-M Rustam case, there were also other 13 cases executed at the very same yard of Baiturrahim Mosque (on 13 July). They were the cases on consuming alcoholic drinks [in public] and ikhtilat (conducting romantic acts in public). The victims were caned between 13 and 27 times each.

[It has been urged that the residents in Aceh should leave Shari'a enforcement up to the Shari'a police, or Wilayatul Hisbah (WH) and not enforce the regulations themselves. It was also reported about the increasing prevalence of mob violence in Aceh, particularly against those accused of Sharia violations.

Shari'a law system in Aceh had, in fact, long been a subject of fierce debate in the country as there are three different systems that are not clearly delineated and even having no clear boundary, namely, common law, Shari'a law and national law. Many have even said that Aceh's Shari'a law system is dangerous in the sense that it tends to lead to victim blaming. Besides, a punishment like caning is excessive especially that the punishment imposed seems to be only based on sexual imagination instead of legal facts. The people in Aceh might have forgotten that caning in Islam is implemented strictly based on strong evidence and not to be carried out arbitrarily. Sometimes, the enforcement of the Shari'a law in Aceh is done based on prejudice and even for political reasons.]

The final formulation of a more humane Islamic law has not, indeed, been achieved in Aceh yet. Otherwise, the so-called justice is everyone's right would take place and happen in Aceh.

Source: Syaf, *voa-islam/read/indonesiana/2018/07/16/59117/kedua-kalinya-aceh-cambuk-pasangan-gay/#sthash.oVCKyDwF.dpbs.* "Kedua Kalinya Aceh Cambuk Pasangan Gay Kedua Kalinya Aceh Cambuk Pasangan Gay (Aceh cans LGBT for the second time)", in Indonesian, 16 July 18.

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