

# Indonesian Agency Denies Orchestrating Cleric's Arrest in Mecca



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH08\_091118]

The speaker of FPI (the Defenders of Islam Front), Munarman, has explained the recent content of the official Twitter account of FPI leader, cleric Rizieq Shihab@IB\_HRS. [The cleric has been in self-exile in Saudi Arabia for more than one year. In response to the recent burning of “Islamic” or “Tauhid” flag by Banser (the youth wing of NU, the largest Islamic community organization in Indonesia), the cleric called on all his followers to put the similar flag in their houses and in all offices of FPI Chapters.]

Mentioning the successful rally named Defending “Tauhid” 211 Action Friday (on 2 November) and the declaration of the Koppasandi [the Commando of Ulema to campaign for Prabowo-Sandi] Sunday (on 4 November), he said, however, the cleric had been inappropriately treated in Mecca.

According to Munarman, in the cleric’s twitter **شهاب رزق** @IB\_HRS, the cleric has accused BIN or the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency for causing him investigated and questioned by Saudi authorities over allegations of putting a “Tauhid” black flag on the back wall of his house in Mecca. [The black flag resembles to that of extremist Islamic groups or ISIS.]

**The cleric suspected that BIN had orchestrated and even reported it to Saudi authorities.**

In response to such an accusation, the director of BIN communications and information office, Wawan Hari Purwanto denied Thursday (on 8 November), saying that there was no evidence that the Agency had carried out such actions.

He even stated that the accusation was a hoax.

According to him, one of BIN tasks is to protect all Indonesians including HRS. It is ridiculous to regard the cleric as an enemy as BIN respects and protects the **people’s freedom of expressions**.

Mentioning that Saudi is a sovereign country, he says that Indonesia would not and could not interfere its domestic affairs. Besides, it is prohibited to conduct an intelligence operation in other countries.

He also said that the cleric should have understood that BIN would never ever **touch anyone’s political rights including that of the cleric’s political alliance**. Like the Indonesian Embassy in the Saudi, BIN is also prepared for helping the cleric including to release him from being detained by the Saudi police.

He strongly said that the accusation that BIN has orchestrated the cleric's arrest (by the Saudi Arabia) was nothing else but a hoax.

Source:

SKR/MAS, [hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2018/11/09/154375/bin-bantah-terlibat-terkait-fitnah-terhadap-hrs-di-saudi.html](http://hidayatullah/berita/nasional/read/2018/11/09/154375/bin-bantah-terlibat-terkait-fitnah-terhadap-hrs-di-saudi.html), "BIN Bantah Terlibat terkait Fitnah Terhadap HRS di Saudi (Intelligence Agency denies orchestrating cleric's arrest in Mecca)", in Indonesian, 09 Nov 18.

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