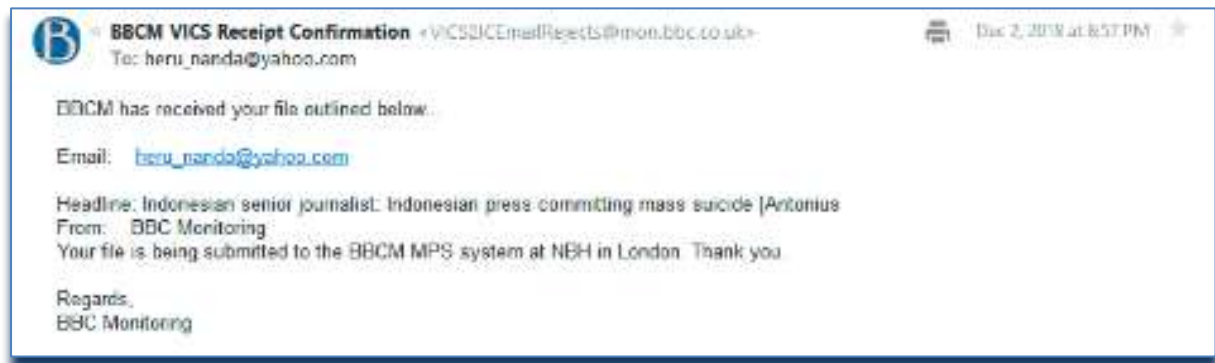


Indonesian Senior Journalist: Indonesian Press Committing Mass Suicide



[Antonius Herujiyanto AH19_261118]

An Indonesian senior journalist, Hersubeno Arief, has been concerned with the present situation of the country's media especially during the so-called political year Indonesia 2018.

Quoting Lance Morcan's words, he worried about the uncertain situation when the media is blindly manipulated, since it would be similar to poison the water supply of one's country.

Mentioning the inappropriate attitudes of Indonesian media in dealing with the coming (April 2019) Indonesian presidential election, he made a list of the situation when there are many partial media; when the authority is co-opted on to the making of the wrong use of the law instead of enforcing it; the non-existing of idealism of the media; the uncontrollable social media; and the temptation to implement the so-called framing the cases that would produce the people's different perception about them.

According to him such attitudes to frame the issues have also been suffered by foreign media. In the case of quoting one of Prabowo's statements, for example, many media have ended up with having wrong understanding.

The *BBC Indonesia*, for example, has carried a report (on 22 November) entitled "Prabowo: Australian Embassy in Israel to be moved to Jerusalem? It is no problem for Indonesia."

The same news has been reported by the Indonesian *Republika online* with "Prabowo has no worries about Australia's moving its embassy building (from Tel Aviv) to Jerusalem." In the meantime, *Sydney Morning Herald (SHM)* carries "Indonesian Presidential Candidate Says Jerusalem Move No Problem."

Originally, Prabowo stated that he had not read about the Australian decision. He also explained that as one of Palestinian supporters, Indonesia would have got her own opinion. In the meantime, Australia is also an independent and sovereign country that should also be respected.

This has made most media, politicians, institutions and organizations in Indonesia condemn Prabowo.

Realising such a situation, BBC Indonesia changes its title into "Australian Jerusalem Move, Prabowo respects Australian sovereignty." SHM changes it into "Presidential candidate says Indonesia should respect Australian sovereignty on embassy move".

Instead of doing the similar things, however, Indonesian media keep on their condemning Prabowo. Other Prabowo's statements have also ended up with the similar situation.

According to Hersubeno Arief, the similar framing acts have also experienced by Prabowo's running mate, Sandiaga Uno and their National political campaign, who is also the former Chairman of Pemuda Muhammadiyah (the youth wing of Muhammadiyah), Dahnil Anhar Simanjuntak.

Exercising such an inappropriate journalism work would mean nothing but committing suicide.

Source: HA, <https://suara-islam.com/bunuh-diri-massal-pers-indonesia/>, "Bunuh Diri Massal Pers Indonesia (The mass committing suicide of Indonesian press)", in Indonesian, 26 Nov 18.

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