

VOICE OF MILLENNIALS



VOX
VOICE OF MILLENNIALS

**“WE ARE...”:
AN EDITORIAL NOTE**

By Narendra Hutomo



Youth News Room with Allan Nairn

The late and great Jim Morrison once said, “Whoever controls the media, controls the mind”. And that’s not what it seems, but that’s what’s exactly happening (sadly) in many parts of the world.

Media as we know are crucial in our daily life ever since their existence. What used to be the means for spreading information, now media come with a twist: the hidden messages and intentions of telling and selling the information.

Many countries still have serious problems of enforcing press freedom, whether you recognize it or not, which could damage society. One of the examples of that phenomenon is occurring in Indonesia, a country ranked 124th in 2017 on Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index.

Having been experienced its freedom since the beginning of reform era in 1999, Indonesian press is still suffering from some serious problems, from the lack of information access for journalists working in remote areas (like Papua and other parts of Eastern Indonesia) to the biased reports of media due to their proprietors’ political interests or economic agendas.

Indonesian media is often accused of being responsible of inciting sectarian rifts among the society. Moreover, the media seem to be so ‘powerless’ to fight against the growing violent extremism and hate speeches.

It’s really an irony. Back then, during the early age of the country, the Indonesian media posed as an active agent in nurturing the nation building efforts, echoing the call from our charismatic founding fathers Soekarno-Hatta on the importance of ‘unity in diversity’.

As the social networks are experiencing robust existence in the country, public tend to use them as im-

portant means of transferring, sharing, and exchanging information. In fact for several occasions, we may see public are even more active and braver than mainstream media to instigate campaigns or movements on many social issues.

Netizens’ tweets, posts, as well as memes via social networks were proven effective to make changes. In contrary, the media that are supposed to be “the agent of change” just become passive witness of the existence of those emerging citizen journalists on the Internet.

Although the citizen journalists’ roles have been generally positive, but one should realize that they are not operating under strict journalism code of ethic and procedures. Some problems may potentially occur.

With Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, hosting the 2017 World Press Freedom Day, we hope that this event would make an impact to Indonesian media practitioners as well the general public.

Furthermore, we are also confident that this event will be the wake up call to every Indonesian journalist and the rest of the world that the high quality of journalism for inspiring changes to the society is worth to be fought for; and that the freedom of expression as well as the transparency and access to public information are guarantees of the freedom of press.

In this special occasion of the World Press Freedom Day held in Jakarta, we, the next generation of journalists of the youth newsroom, want to mark our existence with quality journalism pieces.

Our works reflect the spirit and voice of the millennial generations who are characterised with their dynamic, technological savvy, as well as idealistic attitudes and perspectives. Here we are...the Voice of Millennials.

Layout: Tri Utami Rosemarwati, Salsabila Tsuraya, Jasmina Kauta

Cover: Natasya Dinda (Image source: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/adult-autumn-biting-close-up-265316/>)

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THE WORLD PRESS F



FREEDOM INDEX 2017

STUDENT MEDIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In short, student media are similar to commercial media (like Rappler, BBC), but they are run by students.

Author: Jennifer Wirawan

Illustration: Salsabila Tsuraya

What do student journalists do?

Instead of hanging out with her friends, on Friday night she walks into a radio production room. She greets her colleagues and calls two announcers to brief them about the content for that day's broadcast. She ensures, they understand completely and gives them some additional point outs. She checks on the music playlist one last time before she gives the mark to start the broadcast. She stays in the production room to watch over the broadcast until it ends. Those are what Melissa Octavianti does as a program's producer for her university radio station, UMN Radio.

Meanwhile in the Philippines, Editor in Chief of The LaSallian, Wilhelm Tan says, his work involves overseeing the organization's three writing sections—News, Features, and Sports. He covers sports games, live-tweets the results, writes recaps of games, and makes features on notable players and teams. He also interviews the university administration staffs and the student councils to produce news pieces on various notable issues.

"We also try to cover national events if it's relevant with the university, such as students attending rallies that fight for national topics, like the rally against the burial of former president and dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Cemetery of Heroes)," he says.

Some of Tan's jobs are similar to what Mila Rosalia does. As the Director of Ahmad Dahlan University Television, Rosalia usually searches for news

within her university and local news from hot local issues around university. "Of course it involves interviewing many people as the sources, including government officials," she says.

Being a student journalist also means you could get the chance to do what non-student journalists couldn't. Ajeng Meisinta, a staff of Budi Luhur Television in Indonesia says that she would never forget the moments when she interviewed Kobe Steel, Ltd.'s Chairman, President and CEO Hiroya Kawasaki from Japan.

Meanwhile, Tan got to cover Pope Francis part of Apostolic Journey in the Philippines in 2015. He worked with a small team led by then-Editor in Chief Ronaldo Manzano and they were able to apply for media passes to cover the event.

"We were able to attend some of the events and live-tweeted Pope Francis' different messages and speeches, as well as write articles about the ceremony. We also uploaded photos taken by the team's photographers. It was a very stressful few days, but also some of the most memorable and fulfilling," shares Tan.

Why should we care?

According to Student Press Law Center (SPLC), "Journalism is a portal through which young people first become engaged in the life of the community, whether as journalists or as audience members."

Being a student journalist helps you understand how government agencies work (civic literacy) as well as how to gather information and communicate it effectively. Possessing journalistic skills and knowing its values will also prevent people from spreading online hate speeches.

What they learned

SPLC states that journalism trains young people to verify their facts, signs their names to what they write, corrects their mistakes, takes account of opposing points of view, and understands the dangers of publishing false accusations. These are foundational skills that every student with Internet access needs, not just those working in newsrooms.

Meanwhile, Tan says, “Perhaps the most important thing I’ve learned is that there is always an underlying story, and that it is our duty to find it. (...) Most times, though, it is these hidden stories that are not as obvious that turn out to be the ones that

are truly interesting, and that the community wants to know about. I believe it is our job to find these stories, for better or worse, and share them to the readers.”

Another important lesson one could learn by being student journalist, according to Mila, is to present critical and independent news all the time, and be responsible to everything that needs to be done in the process.

Student Media Rights and Responsibilities

Award winning student journalist, James Beeson, wrote that the purpose of student media is neither to protect the image the school nor to be its mouthpiece.

“Student publications (...) have a duty to report on and investigate matters of student interest. If the Guild or University are acting in a manner which might jeopardize or otherwise reduce student well-

Responsibilities of Student Journalists

- 

Produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness
- 

Review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation
- 

In the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space or airtime, if appropriate.
- 

Reasonably check and verify all facts and the accuracy quotations

being, then it is the role of student media to bring that to the attention of the university population. Just as it is the role of national media to hold politicians and public figures to account, the role of student media is to hold representatives of the university to account,” says Beeson.

Cases

“Some school officials discourage student reporters from asking difficult questions or raising controversial issues. In fact, student journalism of this kind should be encouraged. Student newspapers often lead the media to important education stories,” stated the 2009 Brookings Institution report.

Agung shares, “Even discussion forums are banned by universities nowadays. Campus should be a place where students can express various perspectives, but in reality diverse point of views have become a rarity in academic communities.”

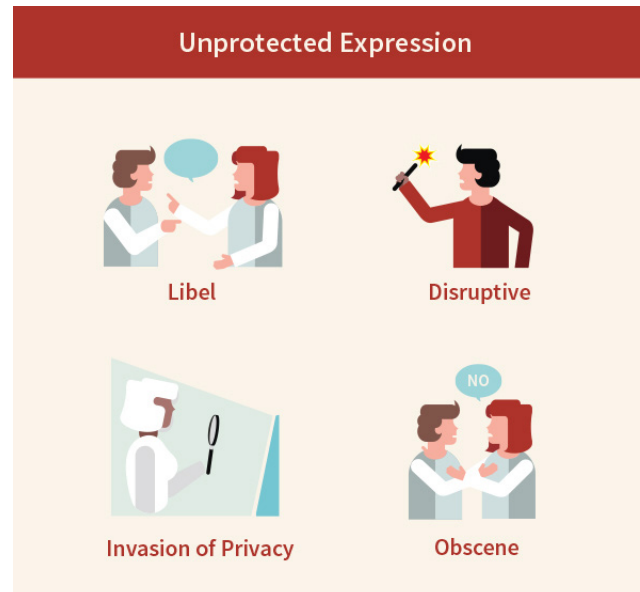
Nevertheless They Persisted

Being a student journalist has a lot of challenges and might also cause stress.

Tan shared that his position as Editor in Chief puts him in heavy mental stress because he needs to be online most of the time to coordinate different events and outputs, especially when several events are occurring at once. He also finds it hard to balance social or academic responsibilities and media responsibilities, for the work of media cannot be delayed. Tan says that he doesn’t plan to be a professional journalist, because he is planning to pursue a career in his majors, Financial Economics or Accountancy.

Time management is also a problem for Ajeng, as she has experienced a scheduling conflict: she has to attend a class at the same time as an interview appointment. However, Ajeng said that working as a student journalist is fun. She loves how she could meet new people every day, so she will pursue a career in journalism after she graduates.

Mila says similar thing with Ajeng. Her experience as a student journalist ensures that journalism



is her passion and many people support her plan. That is why she will also pursue a career in journalism.

Meanwhile, freelance journalist Pennanen says, “In my opinion journalism is more needed than ever in this rapidly changing discussion environment, where for example free press is being attacked by various actors. So I will become a professional journalist, and furthermore I hope that in the future (and of course this very moment as well) I can be proud of my work.”



Journalism teaches me about democracy. I learned that everyone is equal and thanks to student media, I can raise awareness of various issues.

— Head of Indonesia Student Press Union, Agung Sedayu

Protected Speech

General

1

Ban student expression solely because it is controversial, takes extreme, "fringe" or minority opinions, or is distasteful, unpopular or unpleasant

2

Censor punish the occasional use of indecent, vulgar or so called "four-letter" words in student publications

3

Cut off funds to official student media because of disagreement over editorial policy

4

Ban student expression that merely advocates illegal conduct without proving that such speech is directed toward and will actually cause imminent unlawful action

5

Prohibit the endorsement of candidates for student office or for public office at any level

6

Censor a publication or punish or fire student editors for grammatical, spelling or other errors that may diminish the "quality" of student media

7

Engage in any activity or cause to be done to student media anything where the effect is to control, diminish, manipulate or otherwise censor student media or to dismiss, punish or retaliate against student media staff where such action is motivated by the otherwise lawful content or newsgathering activities of student media.

8

Ban the publication or distribution of material relating to sexual issues

9

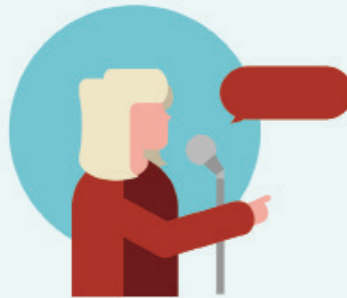
Prohibit criticism of the policies, practices or performance of faculty, college officials, the college itself or of any public officials

10

Ban the publication or distribution by students of material written by non-students



Student Journalist's Rights



Express themselves non-disruptively, even on school grounds during school time unless students' speech is unlawful (libelous, threatening, obscene) or will imminently provoke a substantial disruption of school activities.

Commercial Speech



Advertising is constitutionally protected expression. Student media may accept advertising. Acceptance or rejection of advertising is within the purview of the publication staff, which may accept any ads except those for products or services that are illegal for all students. Advertisements for political candidates and ballot issues may be accepted; however publication staffs are encouraged to solicit ads from all sides on such issues.

See the timeline of student media cases by using this QR code:



(NOT SO) LITTLE “WHITE” LIES:

How People Distrust The Media and How to Fix It

In the past, we used to rely on the media to decide which information is credible. However, what if we can't trust them completely anymore?

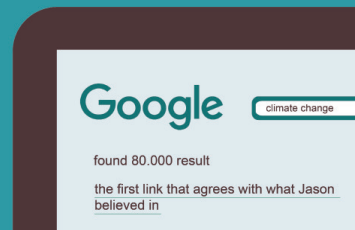
Author: Meghan Levana
Illustration: Salsabila Tsuraya,
Natasya Dinda Rizky



John read some studies and concluded that the climate change is real. He shared the info.



Josh has always told people that the climate change is fake. If people don't believe him, he will lose his job in the oil company.



But he wants to prove it. So he searches for it on the internet.



He accuses John, "You lied! You just want to make a sensation!"



That's how misinformation happens. If Jason believes that climate change isn't real, he will support Josh and distrust John. And so on.



Meanwhile, Jason thought climate change isn't real because he can't feel it.

“People still criticize the media, though what it said is true. When the media is wrong, it’s worse.”

How to Fix the Mess

There’s a way to fix the broken trust. The media should reflect on the good old days. Being objective and independent, telling the truth without fear, becoming a source of information that people can rely on. Those are some of the values the people appreciate from journalism work.

“We must evaluate how we keep our professionalism as reporters and how we raise our independence as journalists and media outlets,” says Head of Indonesian Student Press Association Agung Sedayu.

All information that the media spread has an impact on the public. That means the media should be responsible in every news article they produce.

Agung said there were some ways for media to retrieve the trust. First, the media must ensure their independence by producing news based on journalism values. When the media do a great job, public trust will increase.

“Second, be professional. In some cases, some people who commit violence against journalists (in Indonesia) blamed the media where those journalists work have its own personal agenda, produce one-sided stories, and spread false information. However, violence is not the right thing to do.”

Institutions which are in charge of observing and nurturing the media also need to do their job well. If they turn a blind eye of the violations on journalism ethics, there will be more public distrust toward media.

A Tempo journalist Stefanus Pramono says similar things. The media need to repeatedly verify and confirm every information because public trust the media as their sources of information. Once they make mistakes, the public will criticize them hard. “Especially in the new media era, when everyone can speak their minds out. People still criticize the media, though they say a truth. It will be worse if the media do mistakes.”

There are some media which most of the people considered as “reliable media.” Tempo (Indonesia), Reuters (United Kingdom), and PBS (United States) are few to mention. They had won some prestigious national and international journalism awards for their works.

Hold the Media Accountable

With great power, comes great responsibility. Media have power to shape what people think. However, without restrain from the media and feedback from the public, it can cause chaos. Observing and nurturing the media is important.

Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) is one of the independent institutions which in charge of keeping the media on their role, particularly broadcast media.

According to KPI representative Mohammad Yusuf in his email, KPI now oversees 15 national television network for 24-hours, seven radio networks, and four subscription television randomly.

Mohammad said that based on the broadcasting data, there’s still a lot of media which are not under KPI supervision. “Most of them are radio stations. Not to add thousands of the local broadcasting stations (TV and radio),” he said. “The Regional Broadcasting Commissions cannot do their job optimally because of the lack of tools and excellent human resources.”

Despite all of the regulations and preventions, sometimes mistakes still occur. And it’s KPI’s job to warn those who violated the regulations. Some Indonesian media have experienced this. On January 2017, KPI sent a warning letter to three national TV stations for their news related to the Jakarta governor election. KPI says that those TV stations aired some negative biased news about one of the candidates. The framing also showed on a religious talk show aired by one of the TV stations.

The freedom of media must not be misused. Media need to maintain their independence and be a responsible voice of the voiceless, as the 1998 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize recipient Christina Anyanwu says, “Once the press is demonized, weakened and made to lose credibility, there are fewer voices to shout against repression. There is less impetus in questioning the actions of government, or insisting on transparency, on justice.”

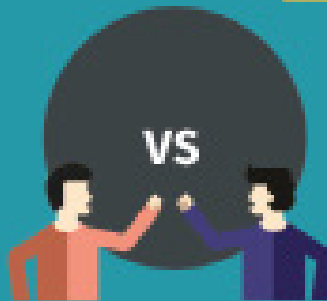
How (Some) Journalists Betrayed Our Trust

Not every journalist commits unethical behavior and loses public trust, but as the proverbial, "One bad apple spoils the whole barrel." Here are some issues of the "bad apples."

1

Media Owner

When media owner interests combined with the media policy, media objectivity and independence will get affected.



In 2017, the television network Fox News, along with its CEO, announced additional coverage of the presidential election. Fox's bias, the name of NewsTV and its owner of National Republican Party (NRP), supports candidate number 2, favorable administration, for more of TV channel coverage of voter polls, supports (NRP/FOX number 1).



The Fox network has been under the spotlight and United States President Donald Trump announced his business. Murdoch's support for Trump was reflected in Fox's coverage, though he stated that they did always do what is right.

2

Bad Judgement

Some journalists published made-up stories.



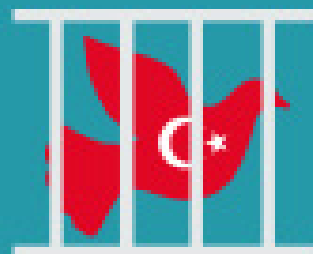
In 2016, Juan Thompson got fired from The Intercept after they discovered that he fabricated several quotes in his stories and created fake email accounts that he used to impersonate people. A year later, Thompson was arrested in connection with heading threats against Jewish centers.

3

Government and Public

In some cases, the government controls what media can publish. If they refuse, the government will accuse them as producing bias or fake news or even send the journalists to jail.

Turkey is setting a new record on putting journalists on jail than any other countries in 2016. As many as 146 journalists are jailed, and some media outlets had been shut down after Erdogan issued an order to arrest those who suspected involved with the failed coup attempt.



4

Money Rules



In 2015, Amazon offered six-month free subscription to the Washington Post for the Amazon Prime members. It only happened because Amazon's founder and CEO Jeff Bezos bought the newspaper in 2013. This could help Washington Post gain readers, but would it affect the newspaper credibility?

TURBULENCE IN PRESS FREEDOM OF FINLAND

Last year Finland experienced a turbulence in the freedom of the press. The pivotal change of state started with Finland's prime minister, the national broadcasting company and a bunch of not-so deliberate emails.

Authors: Aino Haili, Tommi Kolehmainen, Eini Nyman

Illustration: Emma Rahikainen

HELSINKI — Finland has dominated the number one position in the World Press Freedom Index for nearly a decade.

Fresh results show that Finland has now dropped to hold the third place in the global ranking presented by Reporters Without Borders, Norway being this year number one and Sweden on the second place.

The conflict between the prime minister and the national broadcaster could have been swept under the rug without much opposition in some parts of the world. In Finland, given its good position in most charts measuring press freedom in the world, situations like this cannot simply be dismissed with a shrug.

The conflict started with late night emails

At the end of November last year, Finland's prime minister Juha Sipilä sent a number of angry-toned emails to the national and leading broadcast company Yle.

Yle had been reporting about Sipilä's relatives' connections to a Finnish mining company TerraFame which got significant financial support from the Finnish government. The company had recently received a large order from a machinery-providing company Katera Steel, which is partially owned by prime minister Sipilä's relatives. Before that the mining company was close to bankruptcy.

Sipilä sent around 20 furious emails to journalist Salla Vuorikoski who was covering the case and the Editor-in-Chief of Yle, Atte Jääskeläinen. After receiving the emails Jääskeläinen decided not to publish the article.

The official explanation was that Yle had been reporting of the same issue continuously for a week so it was time for new topics.

Journalists disapproved the actions

Yle is administrated by a council appointed by the Finnish Parliament and the vast majority of the company is owned by the Finnish Government. Yle gets its funding from a so-called Yle tax, which is collected from citizens among their other annual taxes. The parliament decides about the tax after government's proposal.

When such a company gets in the middle of accusations of letting the government's representative affect what is published, naturally a lot of conversation was expected to occur outside and inside of Yle.

Jääskeläinen did not admit that there was any sort of pressure involved. According to him, the decision was made entirely due to editorial reasons.

But many journalists in and outside of Yle did not agree with his decision. In their opinion, it was the most important and politically relevant news

topic of the week and it should have been reported accordingly. Finally the actions of Yle and the pressuring attempts of Sipilä filled the headlines in the following weeks.

Three Yle journalists resigned quite soon after the incident because they could no longer stand behind the journalistic views of the editor-in-chief.

The actions of Yle were widely condemned

In March, the Finnish Council for Mass Media (CMM) condemned the actions of Yle. CMM is a council run by Finnish media publishers and the National journalists' union. They jointly defend freedom of speech, ensure good journalistic practice and deal with complaints through self-regulation.

The self-regulation works through a code of journalistic ethics, which the majority of Finnish media outlets have pledged to follow. Whenever these rules are broken in their coverage, the media in question is bound to publish the conviction concerning its "wrongdoing" if so decided by the council.

The chairman of the CMM Elina Grundström thinks that the nationwide discussion which resulted after the chain of events between Yle and Sipilä may have helped politicians and journalists to clari-

fy the ground rules for mutual interaction.

"In my opinion it is good that there was such an extensive discussion about this case. This is just the way the self-regulation system works: we see a problem and explore it thoroughly. We can't have high standard journalism if it's not re-evaluated among the journalists themselves."

After a vote between the council's members, the council's opinion was that the emails of Sipilä had affected the publishing decisions of Yle and therefore it had handed over its editorial power to an outsider (in this case even to a representative of the government, from which Yle gets its funding).

Also Suomen Kuvalehti, the magazine which was the first to report on the topic was condemned by the CMM. The fact that the article was published at 3.36 a.m. gave little time for Jääskeläinen to react and comment on the issue. The requests were sent to him in the middle of the night.

The Association of Editors-in-Chief in Finland also took a stance to the issue. The Association reminded that the unequivocal obligation of the editor-in-chiefs is to lead their newsroom, decide and



THE WORLD IS GETTING DARKER

Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) World Press Freedom Index is widely used and generally recognized indicator measuring the state of freedom of press worldwide. The latest index was released on 26th of April 2017.

Author: Veera Pennanen

Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) World Press Freedom Index is widely used and generally recognized as an indicator measuring the state of freedom of press worldwide. The latest index was released on 26th of April 2017.

The latest Index reflects a dark picture of world in which attacks on the media have become commonplace and strongmen are on the rise. We have reached the age of post-truth, propaganda, and suppression of freedoms – especially in democracies, the organization analyses.

It is unfortunately clear that many of the world's leaders are developing a form of paranoia about legitimate journalism, RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said in the 2016 analysis.

Previous years analyses revealed that many leaders are paranoid about journalists. Now the world seems even darker.

For example, US President Donald Trump has attacked journalist in a very straightforward way. He has called journalists as “the enemy of the people”, and he has also, among other things, barred journalists from well-known and trusted media organizations like The New York Times from attending his daily briefing because the mediums' previous reporting did not please him.

French far right politician and second round presidential candidate Marine Le Pen also uses the same populist ways to make the world looks simpler than it is. In Le Pen's speeches there are “the people” – the ones she is representing, “the others” – whom are good to blame on unemployment and other societal issues facing France. Then there is also the corrupted media that has, according to Le Pen's speeches, “chosen their candidate” who is not her.

The development is not either great in the countries that have been seen as a textbook example of freedom of press. Unfortunately, Finland belongs this club. Country's ranking on the index fell two places down to three from the very top.

According to RSF' release Deloire sees this development as the most notable incident of the year. Read why Finland lost its first place on the index on the previous page.

Threats vary

It cannot be taken for granted that journalists can do their job in peace. According to RSF's barometer of violations of press freedom, in April 2017 altogether 192 journalists were imprisoned.

Burundi (down 4 at 160th), Egypt (down 2 at 161st) and Bahrain (down 2 at 164th) have also joined the so called “black list” – which means that press freedom in the country is classified as “very bad”. See the map below.

Compare to examples above, the press freedom is in a good shape in Finland. But behind relatively good scores, some other issues threatening freedom of speech have appeared recently that can be seen as part of a bigger trend worldwide.

Finland was ranked 1st out of 180 countries for six years in a row since 2010. However, the country is now in the third place.

Finland has done well when it comes to safety issues. But on the other hand, concerning the index detail, RSF reminds that in Finland media ownership is highly concentrated.

One example about concentrated media ownership in Finland is that two large media groups, Sanoma and Alma Media, own most of the daily newspapers.

In December 2016 RSF expressed its deeply concerns about Finland's prime minister Juha Sipilä (Centre Party) actions toward country's public broadcasting company, Yle.

“Various contributions to the debate triggered by Yle's recent reporting of a possible conflict of interest involving prime minister Juha Sipilä (which) have led RSF to believe that Yle's policies do not currently fully meet ideals related to freedom of the press,” RFS wrote on a press release in December 2016.

Due to political pressure and conflicts of interests Finland' ranking shrank two places

down to third after neighbouring countries Norway and Sweden.

The survey answered by professionals

Since 2002, RFS has published World Press Freedom Index that measures freedom of the press worldwide. It also includes indicators of the level of media freedom violations in each region, writes the organization on its website.

The questionnaire is sent each year to journalists, media lawyers, researchers and other media specialists selected by RSF, and participants can submit their answers online.

The RSF's annual index ranks 180 countries in order from best to worse. A part of the survey consists of 87 questions on pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.

Other parts of the whole study of freedom of press include illustrated freedom of press -world map (see below), a data collection on abuses journalists are facing, and a global and local indicators that evaluate the overall performance of countries involved the index.

In general, the global indicator calculated by RSF has never been so high, which tells us that media freedom is under threat now more than ever.

The 2017 Index takes account of violations that took place between January 1st and December 31st of 2016.

Facts

- The abbreviation RSF comes from French language Reporters Sans Frontiers (RFS), in English Reporters Without Borders.
- RFS was based in Paris 1985.
- In addition to publishing World Press Freedom Index, the organization is assisting journalists working in a dangerous areas.
- All in all, among many other organizations like Committee to protect journalists (CPJ), RSF works for freedom of press and speech.

Sources: RFS, CPJ



REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

The abbreviation RSF comes from French language **Reporters Sans Frontières (RFS)**, in English **Reporters Without Borders**.

RFS was based in Paris 1985.

In addition to **World Press Freedom Index** the organization is for example assisting journalists working in a dangerous areas.

All in all, among many other organizations like **Committee to protect journalists (CPJ)**, RSF works for freedom of press and speech.

The RSF's annual index ranks 180 countries in order from best to worse what comes to freedom of press.

take responsibility on the published content. These tasks should never be handed out to any external authority.

But the Association also reminded that the decision not to publish some of their reporter's story does not restrict their freedom of speech. The reporter is not writing as a citizen, but as a journalist and as an employee of a media house. Therefore their freedom of speech as citizens is not restricted.

Press Freedom requires hard work

While Sipilä's behavior in the situation was frowned upon, he actually got himself a pass from the Finnish Parliament's ombudsman. He was investigating whether the prime minister was disqualified in the matter that got him sending the sketchy late night emails to the journalist in the first place. That basically made the hasty reactions of the prime minister completely unnecessary.

On the other hand the societal discussion following the case has been nowhere near pointless. The conflict between Yle and Sipilä can't be single-handedly blamed for Finland's decline in the Press Freedom Index, but there has lately been discussion about several shifts in the attitudes towards the media in Finland.

Grundström outlines that journalists need to make sure that the facts are thoroughly checked and politicians have to be sure that they understand the content correctly before questioning the whole media.

According to Grundström the phenomenon of politicians giving selective statements and to only certain media is truly alarming. Also the trend of mixing facts and opinions with each other is one of the biggest societal problems of today.

”In Finland politicians have started to react more negatively towards the media. Some claim that it resembles a political party with a political agenda of its own. Populistic opposition of journalism is more common among the politicians than before. Politicians should remember that also their own conduct has a great influence,” Grundström said.

Grundström said that press freedom was diminishing and being jeopardized globally. In Finland the situation is still exceptionally good because Finnish journalists are strongly committed to the code of journalistic ethics.

However press freedom is not a certainty but something that requires hard work from journalists and the whole society. Grundström thinks that this kind of case might help the Finnish society to hold on tighter to these values.

Press Freedom is based on everyday actions of every journalist and politician. Grundström outlines that journalists need to make sure that the facts are thoroughly checked and politicians have to be sure that they understand the content correctly before questioning the whole media.

These are the everyday practices that have an influence on press freedom. It is important to never take it for granted – even if you think you are the number one in the world.

The writers are students of Haaga Helia University



Finland was ranked 1st out of 180 countries six years in a row in World Press Freedom Index from 2010 until this year.

What is the history behind the success of Finland's press freedom situation?

Read the QR-code with your smart phone and find out!



Siapa
Pembunuh
Udin?

THE MURDER OF UDIN: A Grim Memorial of Press Freedom in Indonesia

Udin was lying on his bed on Aug. 13, 1996. It was an ordinary night for him. His wife, Marsiyem, was ironing clothes.

A visitor knocked at his door at 10:30 p.m. Udin went out to meet his guest. Less than five minutes later, Marsiyem found her husband lying unconscious on the ground.

The night ended as the beginning of a case that challenges the press freedom in Indonesia.

Author: Chiara Anindya & Tri Utami Rosemarwati



A sticker in front of the Yogyakarta Legal Aid Office (LBH). (Courtesy of Tri Utami Rosemarwati)

Covering The Truth At All Costs

YOGYAKARTA — Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin, better known as Udin, was a journalist for *Harian Bernas*, a local newspaper in Yogyakarta. He was known for his bold coverage against the government. He died on August 16, 1996 — three days after he was attacked in front of his house.

Prior to his death, Udin found proof on government bribery involving Sri Roso Sudarmo, former Bantul district head. Putut Wiryawan, Editor in Chief for *Harian Bernas* retold the case to us.

“It was close to the upcoming election. Sri Roso Sudarmo was ambitious to maintain his position as district head, but he didn’t qualify as a candidate (of district head). However, he suddenly qualified after the Dharmais Foundation received a donation of a billion rupiahs (approximately USD 75.255).”

The statement letter was signed by Sri Roso, along with Noto Suwito, former Chief of Argomulyo village. Suwito was the brother of the former Indonesian president who ruled for more than 30 years during Orde Baru (the New Order), Soeharto.

During the New Order, the Indonesian press faced countless oppression from the government. At that time, *Harian Bernas* was known as a critical media, brave enough to criticize the government.

Aside from the bribery, Udin also uncovered a fraud on the implementation of the Indonesian Government Poverty Alleviation program (IDT) at Imogiri district. After the news was published, Putut stated that several government officials forced *Bernas* to drop the story because “the report was not true”, and demanded them to publicly apologize. *Bernas* declined to do so.

An exhaustive report released by the fact-finding team found that Udin’s death was strongly tied to the ruling regime of Soeharto. This led the Alliance of Indonesian Independent Journalists (AJI) to believe that Udin was murdered because of his journalistic activities. However, police insisted that he was murdered due to jealousy.

The fact-finding team requested the opinion of Djamaludin Ancok, a psychology professor at the University of Gadjah Mada. Putut, who was also a member of the team, said that “Professor Ancok concluded that Udin’s reports were classified as ‘bold’ and ‘progressive’.

Udin’s wife, Marsiyem remembered Udin as a humble person.

“My husband was a reserved and rather quiet person,” she said during the interview. “He had high moral standards, an idealist at heart. He always said that as long as the proof of injustice exists, a

journalist must cover it, at all costs.”

The case was handled by Yogyakarta police. After twenty years, Udin’s murderer has yet to be found. When interviewed during his inauguration, former Police Chief of Yogyakarta, Prasta Wahyu Hidayat, promised that he would “study the case.” Until the end of his term, the case remains unsolved.

The Missing Evidence

It was already late at night when Marsiyem heard a knock at the door. She answered to a man who requested to meet her husband. Marsiyem remembered the visitor as being well-mannered, about 25 – 30 years of age. The man wore a red bandana on his head.

“Udin’s friends would sometimes visit during the night, and the man had a polite demeanor, so I wasn’t suspicious,” she said.

Marsiyem called her husband and left. Less than five minutes later, her gut forced her to check on her

husband.

“I didn’t hear anything at all. Udin knew martial arts, and he would have shouted for help. But I heard nothing,” she admitted.

When she saw Udin lying on the ground, Marsiyem panicked and called for help. Incidentally, Sri Kuncoro, a nephew of Sri Roso, was passing by with his friends.

Sri Kuncoro, along with Marsiyem, took Udin to Bethesda Hospital. Shortly after, he went into a coma until his death three days later.

During the interview, Marsiyem said that Sri Kuncoro visited their house repeatedly for three days prior to the attack. The event didn’t strike her as an oddity because Sri Kuncoro was Udin’s friend.

“He asked if Udin was already home, because he wanted to chat,” Marsiyem said.

Udin’s medical report showed that he suffered



Members of Alliance of Indonesian Independent Journalists (AJI) staged a “silence action” in front of Yogyakarta Police headquarter. (Photo courtesy of Bambang Muryanto)

heavy blows in the stomach and head. He was hit by a shock-absorber which was picked up from a nearby garage. The report led the fact-finding team to do a profiling of the murderer.

The team concluded that the murderer was shorter than Udin, as he had to hit Udin on the stomach before delivering the final blow. The fact that neither Marsiyem nor their neighbors heard anything during the attack meant that the murderer was a professional. Marsiyem believed that the murderer was a police officer or someone of its equivalent.

Udin's death had several apparent peculiarities which frustrated supporters of the case. The police insisted that jealousy was the motive and arrested Dwi Sumaji, known as Iwik, as the murderer. Iwik was the husband of Narti, Udin's classmate in high school.

"Police insisted that Iwik was the murderer, but I swear to God that he wasn't," Marsiyem said.

"Police said that they found Narti's picture inside of Udin's wallet, which they claimed as sufficient evidence to arrest Iwik as the murderer," Marsiyem said.

Iwik denied the accusation, and so did Narti.

"Narti said that she didn't really remember Udin, and was even surprised to know that the journalist that was murdered was her former classmate," she said.

Iwik was arrested, but was soon released due to lack of evidence.

During his trial, Iwik insisted that he was forced by to admit that he was the murderer by Edi Wuryanto, a police officer who investigated the case. Iwik claimed that Edi brought Iwik to Parangtritis beach to talk. There, he was offered alcohol and prostitutes by Edi, who asked for his cooperation during the trials.



Journalists gather at Udin's grave in Bantul district recently. (Photo courtesy of Bambang Muryanto)



Marsiyem, Udin's wife, recalled the night of Udin's murder. (Photo by Tri Utami Rosemarwati)

Marsiyem also noted that Edi disposed of several evidences. The shirt that Udin wore at the time of the attack, along with Udin's blood sample, was thrown to south coast of Java island as "an attempt to ask for Nyi Roro Kidul's (the Indonesian Goddess of the Sea) help in solving the case."

Afterwards, Edi was transferred to the police headquarters in Jakarta.

An Icon of Press

After the release of Iwik, the search for Udin's murderer continued. However, article 78 – 80 of the Indonesian criminal code states that the right to prosecute shall lapse by lapse of time in eighteen years for all crimes upon which capital punishment or life imprisonment is imposed. As of August 16, 2014, the case of Udin has legally expired.

Now, nearly twenty one years after his death, Udin's murderer remains a mystery.

For the past twenty years, AJI acted as a pressure group to ensure the solving of the case. Along with Koalisi Masyarakat untuk Udin (Citizen's Coalition for Udin), AJI tirelessly urged both the government and police to solve the case.

"I really appreciate AJI's help to our family," Marsiyem said, "but the police remained silent. They never gave us answers."

Bambang Muryanto, AJI member, said that the unsolved case of Udin symbolizes the lack of goodwill by both the Indonesian government and police to promote a safe environment for journalists.

"Udin may have worked for Harian Bernas, but he died as a journalist," he said. "His death disgraces the press freedom in Indonesia. He was murdered because of his progressive reports against the New Order government, and that is what makes him an icon."

At the moment, the case has lost all legal rights, but AJI refuses to forget. The Yogyakarta branch of AJI routinely conducts monthly "silence actions".

"On the 16th of each month, we plaster our mouths and stand in front of the Yogyakarta police headquarters for an hour. We also bring posters and signs."

Bambang, a Jakarta Post journalist, said that the act was AJI's last resort of advocating for the truth.

"We are at a loss of words. We have done every possible action. This act is our way of conveying a very important message to the public; that the death of Udin remains as a moral responsibility for the police, and that we, journalists of Indonesia, refuse to forget the injustice that taints the press freedom in Indonesia."

The writers are students of Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

MOROCCO: CHALLENGES IN ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY MEDIA FOR PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

Within a global context marked by an important rise of extremism at all levels, Morocco has, for more than a decade now, prioritized the fight against hate speeches and violent extremism in the framework of the undertaken reforms.

This has been done to strengthen its situation as a state of law. Under this effort, the roles of alternative and community media have been prominent despite some emerging challenges.

Author: Imane Bounjara Photo: Nomadz



Filming of the television program by the Moroccan TV team of 2M at Dakhla.

“

It can be noted, those media—which are supposed to represent the national media sector—have also suffered from management crisis that makes them unable to determine their positioning.

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CASABLANCA — Morocco is among the first Arab countries that liberated the field of media. The reform of the broadcasting in Morocco was in relation with the process of democratization that has been carried out in the last decade, and mainly since the advent of the King Mohamed VI to the throne.

The liberalization took place in 2002 as the state wrote-off direct monopoly over broadcasting industry and established the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA) that is responsible for the sector.

As a result, there were new licenses issued for 19 private radio stations, enabled them—and together with state-owned TV networks and radio stations—to pose as a public service broadcasting, conforming to the specifications and contract-program.

Although the liberalization has been beneficial for private radio industry, the case is different for the television networks. Currently, no new licenses are issued for a private TV station due to unavailing advertising sector in the country.

The liberalization has not also reached the alternative media, especially community radio stations, despite its acknowledged roles in more than 154 countries around the world.

It can be noted, those media—which are supposed to represent the national media sector—have also suffered from management crisis that makes them unable to determine their positioning. They are failed to become reference for all citizens in terms of information, education, and entertainment. Ironically, according to Mediametry, Moroccans are turned to satellite TV and internet.

Citizenship Information

As movements in enforcing human rights and campaigns against radicalization have been more prominent than before, Moroccan civil society tend to resort to media to achieve their goals.

Under the situation, the civil society activists encouraged the establishment of alternative media that offer more citizen participations in producing intercultural and religious discourses in order to counter the spreading hate speeches. While the online media in Morocco can only reach a small portion of population due to the high rate of illiteracy and digital divide, the establishment of alternative

media is proven to be more effective approach. The opportunity of nurturing community media is potentially open under the Moroccan law. In fact the 2011 Constitution has put forward the right to freedom of speech and the right to communication.

Moreover, the government has prioritized the field of the press and media, notably through new reformation of press-code, the regulation of the e-media, the establishment of press council, as well as planned-restructuring of television.

The government has also announced the policy of switching to the digital and initiated a global reform of the law 77.03 governing the audiovisual communication.

However, there are still many things that should be concerned regarding the effort to develop the community media. Violations of the freedom of media still exist as recorded by Press Union.

In addition, the civil society organizations are still prevented from establishing community media that would favour the development of a pluralistic information society and reflect the linguistic, cultural, and social diversity—aspects required to prevent and resolve conflicts.

Founder of the Unesco Chair in Public and Community, Jamalddine Naji, told Maghreb Arabe Press, that Morocco has put together all the necessary conditions for advancing in the area of community media.

He further added in an interview with Yabiladi Magazine, “Every country has its own rhythm but this will depend on every effort that will be made to fill this gap. Now civil society has to fight to the right to freely create community radio stations.”

In term of regulation, the procedure engaged in the reform framework is slow and it hinders the liberalization of a determining field to consolidate development and democracy.

For this reason, coalitions and advocacy networks were launched, particularly since 2011, in order to reform the media sector, affording access to information, a transparent and participating public, protection for journalists, and community radio stations.

The writer is from Morocco



Solidarity Poem. Ahmad Izzudin reciting a poem called Deklarasi Perang (The War Declaration) by Ocha Vozvyshehny for Khalid Ismath at Lebu, Leith, Georgetown on October 18, 2015, who was arrested under Sedition Act 1948 for allegedly criticising the Malaysia police force on abuse of power. (Ilaiya Barathi / USM Malaysia)

“MALAYSIA BOLEH”:

An Exclamation in Repressive Regime

Author: Ilaiya Barathi Panneerselvam and Douglas Elliot

JAKARTA — May 2, 2017 It is the battle cry of a nation that echoes across the land. Simply put, ‘Malaysia Boleh’ is a slogan of the can-do spirit and a hope. Paradoxically, however, the term of ‘boleh’ (translated as “can”) has lost its meaning and changed over time. Nowadays it has become some sort of a mockery.

Long before Trump and his accusations of ‘fake news’ by the media, halfway around the world lies a country that prides itself in pioneering and perfecting the art of media manipulation—part of the Malaysia Boleh ethos.

Thanks to the few repressive laws in Malaysia,

this situation has led to the proliferation of alternative media against the mainstream ones which by large are owned by the ruling political parties or those who are ‘in favor’ with the government.

After the national coalition front, Barisan Nasional (BN) lost its comfortable wins by losing the two-thirds majority in parliament during the 2008 general election, then the Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi relinquished the leadership to Najib Razak in 2009, thus becoming the President of United Malays National Organisation (UMNO)—BN main component party—and Malaysia’s next Prime Minister.

While notable reforms were promised, and ‘walk



Solidarity for Khalid. The USM undergraduate students urging the government to release Khalid Ismath, a victim of Sedition Act at Lebu Leith, Georgetown, Penang on October 18, 2015. (Ilaiya Barathi / USM Malaysia)

the talk’ theory was deemed to be finally realized, the progressive measure of repealing the archaic and arbitrary Internal Security Act (ISA) was rather short-lived as the dream of a better democracy shattered with the reinstatement of detention without trial, as well as repressive laws that limit various human rights, from freedom of press.

Colonial Comfort

Since the abolishment of the ISA in 2011, the hide-behind-the-guise of a ‘new’ Security Offences (Special Measures) Act is widely used by Najib’s administration for the sake of maintaining the nation’s “security, peace and harmony”. Left by the British colonialists, the Sedition Act (1948) has been continuously an important tool of the state to suppress the opposing voices coming from the alternative media, social activists, opposition parties and artists.

An excerpt from the Critical Repression: Freedom of Expression under Attack in Malaysia (2016) reported by Amnesty International reveals that the use of

Sedition Act—which allows authorities sweeping powers to target those who oppose them—has skyrocketed since the Barisan Nasional coalition government narrowly won the 2013 general elections, with around 170 sedition cases during that period.

In 2015, a student activist Khalid Ismath had three sedition charges against him for a Facebook posting that denounced the Malaysian police force for abuse of power. Adding insult to injury, he was also implied with 11 accounts of charges under Communication and Multimedia Act (1998) for the similar statement.

Susan Loone, a journalist from Malaysiakini.com, was arrested under Sedition Act in 2014 for an article that was believed to hurt the sentiments of the Malaysian police.

Five media professionals from TheMalaysianInsider were arrested under Sedition Act in 2015 for publishing a news report pertaining punishments under Islamic law. The Managing Editor Lionel Morris, Features Editor Zulkifli Sulong, Malay News Editor Amin Iskandar, Malaysian Insider CEO Ja-



Tangkap MO1 rally. Anis Syafiqah (holding the mic) leads the “Tangkap MO1” protest rally at Maju Junction on 27 of August 2016. The rally begins with the people assembling at Maju Junction, who then marched till Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur. However, the venue was closed by the authorities to prevent the protesters from gathering. (Ilaiya Barathi / USM Malaysia)

habar Sadiq and The Edge’s publisher (the portal’s parent company), Ho Kay Tat were all arrested for allegedly publishing seditious materials.

Another activist, Ali Abdul Jalil, was forced to seek asylum in Sweden after he was charged for allegedly making seditious statements through his Facebook account which were deemed as insults to the Johor royalty as well as Sultan of Selangor. After 20 days in police custody, he was later bailed out with intimidation.

Then in 2016, more politically motivated arrests were made under the draconian act. Among them was Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, a political cartoonist popularly known as Zunar that was arrested for allegedly insulting the Prime Minister with his cartoon depictions.

Malaysia (Not So) Boleh Laws

Perhaps one form of the hegemonic media control is via the Communications and Multimedia Act (1998) that governs and limits online materials.

Though Section 211 (prohibition on offensive content) and Section 233 (improper use of network facilities or network service) were stated in the law, it is often times violated to curb the voices that dare threaten the political security of the ruling class.

For instance, Fahmi Reza, a political artist, was charged under this law for his viral caricature of the P.M. Najib Razak drawn as a clown. Reza’s impingement even becomes funnier than the caricature itself.

“The harassment against cartoonists can be described as malicious and juvenile. Recognizing that freedom of expression can be restricted in selected circumstances, the persecution of cartoonists and artists such as Zunar and Fahmi Reza does not fit in the list of exception for freedom of expression and it is undeniably disproportionate in terms of its restriction,” criticized Sevan Doraisamy, the Executive Director of Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM).

Earlier in 2015, SarawakReport.org, a whistle-blowing portal run by a British investigative journalist, Clare Rewcastle Brown, was blocked

by the Malaysian government after numerous allegations involving corruption scandal and financial mismanagement of Najib Razak. As per the instructions of Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), the access to its website was blocked. This action further reinforces the claim of a controlled media environment in Malaysia; where non-conventional messages or ideologies are deemed as deviant.

“Between the restriction for print publications under the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 and the control and prosecution for online content under the the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, press and journalist faces substantial constraint in terms of legal controls and sanctions. In recent years, good example of such restrictions can be seen in the raid against MalaysiaKini (a prominent online media in Malaysia) under Section 233 of the Communciation and Multimedia Act 1998 for uploading a press conference which they covered. The raid against Malaysian Insider under Section 124C of the Penal Code (threatening parliamentary democracy) while it was still operating was also another example in which the law is interpreted and utilized to restrict press freedom”, explained Sevan.

Besides that, there are other laws which are occasionally used to silent the opposing views, such as Defamation Act 1957, Official Secrets Act 1972, National Security Council Act 2016 , Evidence Act 1950 and few others. Though it claims to maintain the order of the nation, the true nature of the practice gives it an opposite impression.

“Regulations by government or the state, as the Malaysian government has tried to do for awhile, should be opposed. Governments are seldom benign, and the Malaysian government has certainly proven, time and again, that it wishes to curb the media for the wrong reasons,” says Professor Zaharom Nain from Media and Communication Studies, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

“It’s a bleak future, as long as journalists, other media personnel, and, certainly concerned Malaysian from all walks of life remain docile and fearful to the point of being paralysed with unreasonable fear and paranoia. Press freedom and personal freedom in Malaysia will face a dark future because Malaysians have been too spoiled, socialized, segregated and made to fear their own shadows. They thus are paying for their silence, apathy and timidity,” lamented by Professor Zaharom on what beholds to the freedom of expression in Malaysia.

The blatant tactic serves as the repressive tools to subjugate the masses through coercion. The law, which was perceived as the guardian that ensures the peace and harmony of a nation, is now shifted as an archaic apparatus to serve those who are in power. For such optimism in its message, Malaysia Boleh is now merely an exclamation of exasperation.

Additional reporting by Siow Jing En and Ooi Jing Yi
The writers are students from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

“

Press freedom and personal freedom in Malaysia will face a dark future because Malaysians have been too spoiled, socialized, segregated and made to fear their own shadows. They thus are paying for their silence, apathy and timidity.

— Professor Zaharom Nain from Media and Communication Studies, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A JOURNALIST IN PALESTINE?

Author: Ibrahim Abu Saif and Nagham Kilani
Photographer: Fadi Aurora

RAMALLAH — It was on October 31, 2015. A group of Palestinian journalists were covering the clashes between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers in the City of Ramallah. Suddenly, an Israeli military car, chased a Palestinian youth very fast, and ran over him, so he suffered from serious injuries.

The whole scene was filmed on cameras, and the journalists ran to cover that attack. Then, Israeli officers assault the journalists with the pepper gas on their faces, and hit them.

Some of the journalists suffered from burns because of the assaults, and were taken by the paramedics to the hospitals.

That incident depicts vividly the routine dangers faced by Palestinian journalists in doing their journalistic duties. They encounter many violations and risks, even during their works in their own territories.

In Palestine, journalists can do their job nor-

mally, covering events, conferences, sports, and other things. But when they cover the clashes or conflicts, it becomes too dangerous, because the Israeli soldiers can take harsh approaches to them, treating them as if they were criminals.

In the following video, which was taken two years ago, you can see the Palestine TV Correspondent, Ahmad Shawar, covering a demonstration in the village of “Kufr Kaddoum” near the City of Qalqilya, West Bank. Ahmad got injured in his arm by a rubber bullet shot from an Israeli soldier, and took the Ambulance.

Ahmad also injured again two months ago, in the same village, when he covered protests by Palestinians against the occupation of Israel.

On January, 2017, The Committee for Supporting Journalists, documented 41 Israeli violations against the Palestinian journalists. It’s worth to mention that 22 Palestinian journalists are still arrested in Israeli prisons, unlawfully.



*An Israeli soldier prevents with his hand a cameraman from covering clashes near Beit Eil checkpoint, October 7, 2015.
Photo by Fadi Aroura.*



*An Israeli soldier sprays pepper in the face of a Palestinian cameraman, in Ramallah, West Bank, in October 31, 2015.
Photo by: Fadi Aurora*

FIVE TAKEAWAY FACTS FROM FRANK LA RUE

Author: Douglas Elliot David
Photo: Gustama Pandu

In the media world, “fake news” is the new frenzy. A term made famous by U.S. President Donald Trump, it has now become an inescapable word in the media’s vocabulary. With the recent state of events, we have gathered five takeaway facts from Frank La Rue, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at UNESCO, about the whole issue during the World Press Freedom Day (WPFJ) 2017 in Jakarta.

1. “Fake news” is a trap

Well, surprise, surprise! “Fake news” is merely a term and a political attack employed by the extreme right-wing politicians to protect their own self-interests. According to La Rue, the true nature of the word itself hides the intention and the discourses of racism, xenophobia and discrimination of the leaders.

2. Role of a journalist as peacemaker

La Rue stressed that a free form of journalism is crucial in democracy building and development in the world. During this period, a journalist should act as the bridge, or the peacemaker, that facilitates the free flow of ideas and information, in line with UNESCO’s vision of bridging peace and unity among people.

3. Diverse media are NOT bad things

More media means more choice, right? Media diversity and media pluralism are among the principles that UNESCO fights for. It creates an environment of an open debate whereby the audience actively seeks out information and form their own opinions of what’s wrong and what’s right. And what is the better way to hone the ability to extract truths from lies than by comparisons?

4. Ignorance isn’t always a bliss

While we would like to assume that every audience plays an active role, this is unfortunately not the case. The role of journalism today is faced by the mounting challenge of those that would like to keep these people to remain ignorant. Thus, journalists themselves should be the custodian of truth for the audience to build a critical mind so that they will be informed and won’t be easily fooled.

5. Free press matters

As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, among the basic conditions needed for development are transparency and guaranteed public access to information. La Rue believes that free press and critical minds are crucial not only as human rights, but also for strengthening development of democracy.

The writer is student of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

Frank LA RUE speaks about freedom press at your newsroom, Jakarta Convention Center on Monday 1st of May.



WHAT JOURNALISTS SAY ABOUT THEIR JOB

Author: Putri Aulia Faradina
Photo: Gustama Pandu



Sekar Sari Utama
Indonesia

“I feel happy as a journalist because I meet many people who are knowledgeable. I also happy to learn new things, new topics everyday. My most memorable moment as a journalist is when I met the ex president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Diplomatic Forum, in Bali, 2012. The sad things being a journalist is about the working time. When everybody goes for holiday, I have to go to work. Second is, Indonesian journalists are still underpaid. I think the welfare of journalists should be equal with the professional workers.”



Maria Ressa
Phillipines

“Happiest moment, of course any journalist has an exclusive that has impact. Our works can change reality, has impact to the people. Indonesia gave me so many moments. I was here for a decade so I covered everything from 1996, the riots, the financial crisis, the haze, the fall of Suharto in 1998. I think when you part of history, and when you were there, when you reporting it, nothing beats that. Because you can see the impact on people. A sad moment, fake news of course! When people are misled, and people or other who knows better allow it to happen, or even take part in it. So I think technology has changed the world, technology changed journalism and our big problem is to go to find the truth for a broad spectrum of society.”



Alejandro Gomez Dugand
Colombia

“Me, as a journalist and teacher, seeing young people want to tell true story is quite an amazing thing. I’m from Colombia, South America, and have a lot of sad moments, we have journalist safety issue in Columbia, and it is very hard. Journalist get killed every year. But it’s getting better by the year. About the best thing as a journalist, right now my friend and I are working a story about our government doing a peace treaty with the guerilla. And then finding the human side of the enemy such a life changing experience.”



Frederico Walter
Timor Leste

“I’m happy of being a journalist because I can understand about human life and nature. I have so many friends, and also have no barriers to seek information in any issue. But the sad time is I rarely have a quality time with my family. My best moment as a journalist is when I reported the riots in Timor Leste.”

The writer is student of Universitas Indonesia

PHOTO GALLERY



Desi Fitriani examining the picture of herself being kicked and hit by radical islamics (Aino Haili / Voice of Millennials)



Vice President of Indonesia Jusuf Kalla visit Antara Photo Exhibition after opening ceremony of World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Aino Haili / Voice of Millennials)



Commissioner of Transmedia Ishadi S.K. talk in front of audience in a session World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Albizia Akbar / Voice of Millennials)



Indonesia Minister of Infomatics Communication and Technology Rudiantara being surrounded by Indonesian press (Albizia Akbar / Voice of Millennials)



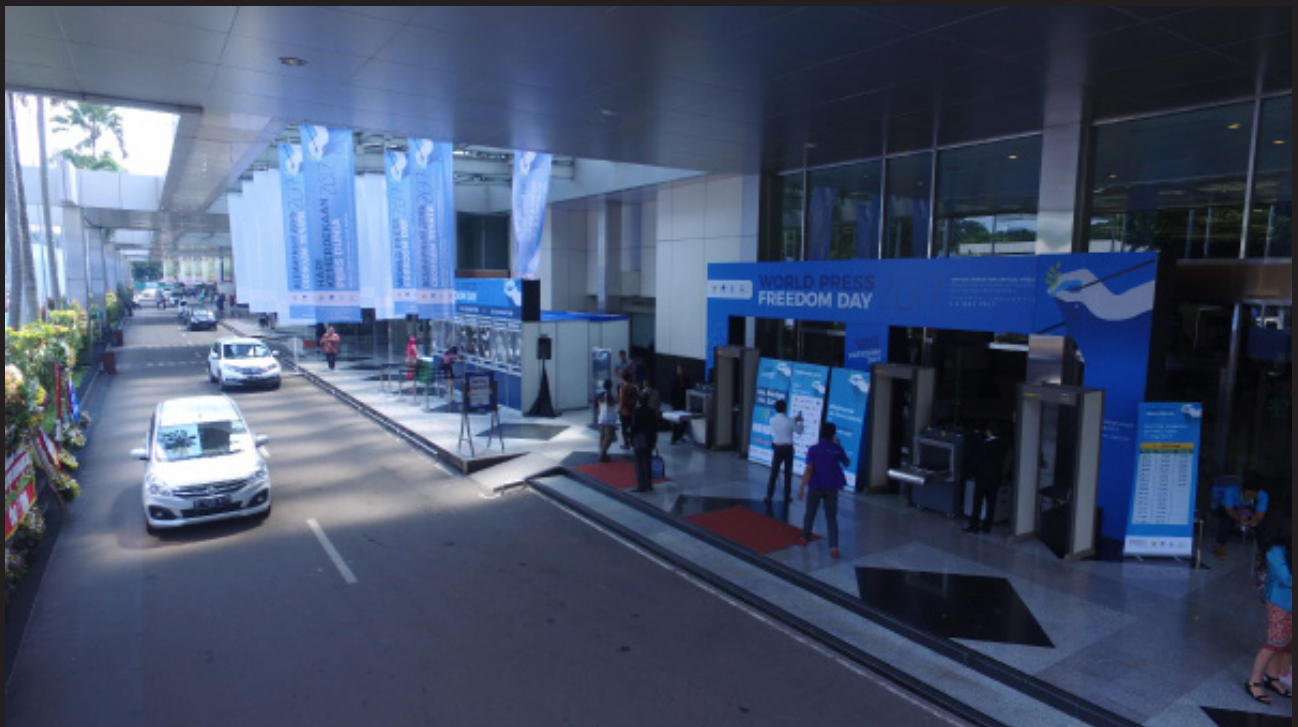
Indonesia President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo smile to the UNESCO representation before World Press Freedom Day 2017 gala dinner (Ben Latuihamallo / Voice of Millennials)



Who's telling the truth? (Ben Latuihamallo / Voice of Millennials)



Christine Hakim attend the Gala Dinner of World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Ben Latuihamallo / Voice of Millennials)



Drone view of Jakarta Convention Center during the World Press Freedom Day 2017 event (Devin Yulianto / Voice of Millennials)



Allan Nairn interviewed by Voice of Millennials journalist on Kakatua Room Jakarta Convention Center (Hafizh Gemilang / Voice of Millennials)



"World Freedom" see through the journalist glasses (Hafizh Gemilang / Voice of Millennials)



Timor-Leste former President Jose Ramos Horta on World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Jing En / Voice of Millennials)



How journalist sketch the information from the panelist (Jing En / Voice of Millennials)



Frank LA RUE give some advice to young Journalist on Youth News Room (Siow Jing Yi / Voice of Millennials)



People see the photo exhibition about Indonesia Press Freedom at Jakarta Convention Center (Siow Jing Yi / Voice of Millennials)



When the high technology cant really defeat the conventional paper and pen (Omar Benabdelaziz /Voice of Millennials)



Indonesia Minister of Infomatics Communication and Technology Rudiantara being surrounded by Indonesian press after attending the press conference (Albizia Akbar /Voice of Millennials)



Smile on the Youth News Room of World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Gustama Pandu / Voice of Millennials)



Bethlehem Isaak, daughter of journalist Dawit Isaak, represents her father while receiving the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize during a 2017 World Press Freedom Day (Gustama Pandu / Voice of Millennials)



Allan Nairn talk in front of journalist of Voice of Millennials at Kakatua Room Jakarta Convention Center (Yerica / Voice of Millennials)



Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) booth at World Press Freedom Day 2017 (Yerica / Voice of Millennials)

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