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Permanent Delegation
of the Republic of Indonesia
to UNESCO

Délégation Permanente
de la République d'Indonésie
auprès de l'UNESCO

Paris, 28 May 2019

Ref.: 77 /KWRIU/V/2019

Mr. Moez Chackcouk
Assistant Director General for
Communication and Information

Dear Mr. Assistant Director General ,

With reference to your letter Ref. CI/FEM/FOE/fr/2019/38, dated April 9th, 2019, we have the honour to convey the response and clarification of the government of the Republic of Indonesia for the case of Muhammad Yusuf in the framework of the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity.

In brief, after conducting thorough investigation, information gathering and coordination, the government of the Republic of Indonesia is of the assurance that this particular case is not a journalistic case and therefore should not be categorized as a case of Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity based on these following facts:

- a. Muhammad Yusuf is not a journalist, given that his writings do not comply with journalistic standards and ethics, and not a member of the Indonesian Journalists Association, the Alliance of Independent Journalists, and the Indonesian Television Journalists Association;
- b. Three online media that published his writings do not conform media requirements as stipulated in the Indonesian Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press;
- c. The case of Muhammad Yusuf is a legal case in which police investigation has been completed and closed, based on the Termination Decision Letter from the Kotabaru District Attorney General's Office of Prosecution Number 71/Q.3.12/EUH.2/06/2018, dated June 21, 2018;
- d. Based on the Visum et Repertum document number VER/056/IPJ/VI/2018, dated July 9th, 2018, the death of Muhammad Yusuf was caused by a heart disease.

The complete response and clarification that includes expected follow up measure by UNESCO is attached to this letter for your perusal.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, we wish to re-assure our commitment and utmost efforts in handling the case of Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity.

Ambassador/Alternate Permanent Delegate of the
Republic of Indonesia to UNESCO

A blue ink signature of Surya Rosa Putra, consisting of a stylized, flowing script.

Surya Rosa Putra

D. The Government of Indonesia attaches great importance to the safety of journalist and freedom of expressions.

Media in Indonesia is free and forms an important part of the democratic process. The freedom of expressions is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

These information can be shared by UNESCO with its member countries as best practice and can also be published in the UNESCO's website

Annex

With regard to the case of Muhammad Yusuf, whose death was condemned by the UNESCO's Director General dated 3 July 2018, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia would like to convey several points as follows:

A. Clarification on Muhammad Yusuf Case

- The Indonesian Press Council stated that the case of Muhammad Yusuf is not a journalistic case, hereafter is not categorized as a Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity case according to the UNESCO;
- Muhammad Yusuf is not a journalist, given that his writings do not comply journalistic standards and ethics;
- Three online media that published his writings do not conform media requirements as stipulated in the Indonesian Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press;
- Since M. Yusuf is not a journalist, he is not a member of the Indonesian Journalists Association, the Alliance of Independent Journalists, and the Indonesian Television Journalists Association;
- Muhammad Yusuf 's case is a legal case in which police investigation has been completed and closed, based on the Termination Decision Letter from the Kotabaru District Attorney General's Office of Prosecution Number 71 / Q.3.12 / EUH.2 / 06/2018 dated June 21, 2018;
- Based on the Visum et Repertum document number VER / 056 / IPJ / VI / 2018 dated July 9, 2018, the death of Muhammad Yusuf was caused by a heart disease. The Visum et Repertum report stated no signs of violence, poison or toxic usage and or other human rights violations related to Muhammad Yusuf death.

B. Disappointment on the Condemnation by UNESCO Director General dated 3 July 2018

- The Government of Indonesia expresses its disappointment on the condemnation statement on the death of Muhammad Yusuf by the Director General of UNESCO published on the website of UNESCO dated 3 July 2018 without prior written communication and clarification to the Government Indonesia via the Indonesian Delegation of UNESCO in Paris or through the UNESCO Representative Office in Jakarta;
- UNESCO c.q. UNESCO Regional Office in Jakarta needs to be more proactive in carrying out consultation and written communication to the Government or to the Indonesian Press Council in the event of alleged violence or even the death of an Indonesian citizen, before publishing a statement of condemnation by the highest level officer at the UNESCO.

C. Efforts to Increase Journalist Competency for Freedom and Safety Press in Indonesia by the Indonesian Press Council

- Dissemination and supervision of the implementation of the Journalistic Code of Ethics and Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press;
- Providing a Right to Answer mechanism for journalists to correct reporting errors;
- Conducting journalist competency tests;
- Establishing Guidelines for Handling Cases of Violence Against Journalists as determined by the Indonesian Press Council in 2013.