

PRESS CONFERENCE
**MAFINDO WEBINAR: STRENGTHENING FACT-CHECKER ACTIVITIES IN
INDONESIA**

28 March 2022, Webinar of the Indonesian Anti-Defamation Society (MAFINDO) in order to strengthen Fact-Checker activities in Indonesia and discuss the need for protection of journalist and non-journalist fact-checkers in Indonesia.

The rapid development of the digital world in Indonesia has a good impact on society. Easy access to news, information, and things you want to know is the benefit of digital developments. However, the rapid development is not in accordance with the digital literacy that exists in Indonesian society. Sometimes there are still many people who get hoaxes and even share them. Fortunately, currently the media in Indonesia, even from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are actively involved in conducting fact-checking of information, so that they can help the public to find the correct news or information. Therefore, it is important for all of us to do a fact-check on the news or information we receive and support fact-checking activities in Indonesia to prevent the spread of hoaxes.

This fact-checking activity is certainly not an easy thing, several times we have seen that there are still frequent attacks on digital media from people who don't like fact-checking activities by journalists and non-journalists. Unfortunately, until now there are still no rules or laws that regulate the protection of fact-checkers, journalists and non-journalists in Indonesia, so that they have been treated badly in digital media several times.

Eko Juniarto, Presidium of MAFINDO revealed “that the fact-checkers at MAFINDO have received several attacks from people who do not like MAFINDO Fact Checking activities. This is certainly a concern and requires the existence of an organization or body that oversees fact checkers and journalists in conducting fact checks in Indonesia. MAFINDO hopes that through this discussion there will be an agency that oversees fact-checking activities in Indonesia and makes standards related to fact-checking so that it can protect fact-checking activities.”

Esther Chan, Digital Journalist, Editor Specialized in APAC/ANZ revealed “that her experience doing fact checks sometimes doesn't seem to have any *impact* on people's lives or others believe that it takes a long time to publish the results of fact checks, but there are reasons to do so. , because you have to do it right, have to get all the facts, and all the evidence to prove that it's true news.

Then, what about the safety of the fact-checkers? Lately we

only focus on digital security, but we forget about our physical safety, even though we work more virtually, but our virtual world and real life are actually interconnected as we don't imagine, and personal information is not as safe as we think, even very it's easy for someone if they want to find us in the real world, such as from our *browser* traces , or social media accounts that have been *hacked*.

Adi Marsiela, Coordinator of Cekfact.com said “digital threats do not only threaten fact checkers or journalists, but all citizens. Why?

We can see that even ordinary citizens can be exposed to the threat of digital violence, and the background is the rule of law that allows people to report other people's activities on social media related to freedom of expression. Although, by law, freedom of expression has become our right as citizens, because it is regulated in Article 28 of the Basic Law, but as long as there are rules in the Criminal Code, such as defamation, then there are also rules in the ITE Law, it will remain a threat to all of us in Indonesia.”

The existence of organizations or bodies that oversee journalists and non-journalists who carry out fact-checking will certainly strengthen the fact-checking movement in Indonesia, especially from the community who have been involved in fact-checking activities.

With this webinar, it is hoped that it can raise the discourse and encourage efforts to improve the protection of fact-checkers in Indonesia and uniform procedures for fact-checking activities for both journalists and non-journalists, which will provide guidance on fact-checking workflows, including the creation of fact-checking content. disability friendly.

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Speaker Profile

Eko Juniarto

Eko Juniarto is the founder and presidium of MAFINDO, MAFINDO's fact-checker and Program Manager for the Hoax Resistance Class to train Indonesians to do simple fact-checking. Eko Juniarto has a bachelor's degree in Information Technology from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB).

Esther Chan

Esther Chan is a digital journalist from Hong Kong who works in an International fact-checking organization or first draft with her daily activities working to verify news.

Adi Marsiela

Adi Marsiela is the Coordinator of Cekfaka.com, a media collaboration to fight fake news and fact-checking. Adi Marsiela is also a journalist who is active in providing education regarding fact-checking and fact-checking activities. Adi Marsiela has a bachelor's degree in communication science from Padjadjaran University.