

Repressive Measures Against Journalists and Media as Advocacy Medium

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ABSTRACT. Cases of violence against journalists continue to occur from year to year. Based on AJI Indonesia's records, during the last 5 years there were 265 cases reported including 64 cases in 2018, 58 cases in 2019, 84 cases in 2020, 43 cases in 2021, and the last 16 cases until May in 2022. Advocacy is a solution in solving this case. The involvement of the mass media for advocacy campaigns is an interesting thing. This article aims to find out the media used by AJI in Semarang City and how AJI in Semarang City uses these media in the process of advocating for journalists who experience repressive actions in 2020. The research method uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. The data sources used were obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation related to repressive actions against journalists that occurred in 2020 in Semarang, Central Java. The data were analyzed by triangulation method. Based on the data analysis carried out, the results of this study concluded that the use of mass media was considered effective in the process of advocating repressive actions against journalists in 2020 in Semarang, Central Java. The media used by AJI in Semarang City are online media and electronic media. Online media in the form of social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), Youtube Serat.ID, website advokasi.aji.or.id, and online news portals (tirto.id, serat.id, kompas.com, suara.com, ayosemarang.com, news.demokrasi.co.id, beritamerdekaonline.com, suarajawatengah.id). Meanwhile, electronic media are television (Metro TV) and radio (Radio Elshinta). The use of the Semarang City AJI network media is based on the characteristics of the media itself, so that the range of messages conveyed is more focused.

KEYWORDS: Media, Advocacy, Repressive, Journalist, AJI Semarang City

1 INTRODUCTION

Behind the presentation of news for the public interest, the work of journalists cannot be separated from various kinds of risks. The risk of these threats can be in the form of harassment, confiscation and destruction of reporting equipment, to verbal and non-verbal violence when reporting. Acts of violence against journalists are usually in the form of human activities that have indications of being against the law or contrary to applicable laws, can be in the form of words or physical actions that are real, and result in damage to property, physical to the death of the victim.

Although the form results in the same, the reasons or motives that encourage someone to commit violence can be different. Violence against journalists includes murder, torture, torture, kidnapping, threats, and so on. Acts that constitute violence have different motives, for example, murder can be motivated by property or business competition, revenge or jealousy and even politics, persecution can be motivated by wealth or revenge (Febriani, 2019).

Journalists have an important role in the complexities of social life. As a provider of information for the public interest, the responsibility that is held is not light. Which is a lot of risk

when carrying out professional activities. Whether it's a verbal or physical risk. Repressive measures are one of them. Summarizing the records of AJI Indonesia (Aji, 2022), during the last 5 years there were 265 cases reported including 64 cases in 2018, 58 cases in 2019, 84 cases in 2020, 43 cases in 2021, and the last 16 cases until May 2022.

In early 2021, a case of violence happened to Nurhadi, a journalist from Tempo Surabaya. When carrying out related coverage carried out by the former Director of Inspection of the Directorate General of Taxes, Ministry of Finance, Angin Prayitno Aji. This case has received a lot of attention from various parties. In particular, AJI Indonesia also responded in the form of a press release entitled "Polri Must Strengthen Investigators' Competence in Press Offenses" on Monday, April 5, 2021 through the aji.or.id website (Febrina, 2021). This indicates that cases of violence against journalists is still happening and needs serious attention.

Previously, on October 7, 2020, a similar incident occurred during the coverage of a demonstration against the Job Creation Act in Semarang, Central Java. There were at least 3 journalists who received repression from the police. The three, namely Muhammad Dafi Yusuf, a journalist from Suara.com and Praditya Wibbi, were asked by the police not to take pictures and delete videos while reporting. Also the journalist for the Central Java Tribune, Rahdyan Trijoko Pamungkas, was prohibited from taking videos when the police transported demonstrators to the detention car. The police even forced his cellphone and tried to delete the video (Abdul Arief, 2020).

In the case above, advocacy can be done to obtain a defense. This is intended as a form of protest against acts of violence against journalists. Quoting Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (Susanti, 2012) gives the definition of advocacy as an action or protest to defend or provide support. In the sense of providing defense or support to weak community groups, advocacy is intensified by individuals, groups, non-governmental organizations or people's organizations that have concerns about human rights issues, the environment, poverty, and various forms of injustice.

Aliansi Jurnalis Independen or The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia as one of the journalists' union organizations, participates in accommodating and bridging issues that oppose the work activities, rights, and safety of journalists in carrying out their work. So in this case, advocacy is an effective way to guard cases of violence experienced by journalists. Especially in the case of Muhammad Dafi Yusuf and Praditya Wibbi.

In advocating for cases that befell journalists, careful planning and strategies are needed. So that advocacy can be optimal and get follow-up from related parties. In addition to the importance of planning and strategy in advocacy, the media used in conducting advocacy is also very influential in its success. Media is a means of communication channel. In addition to acting as an intermediary between the source and recipient of the message. The use of media affects the delivery of the message itself. Where the media has an impact directly and indirectly. So the selection of the right media can support the success of the message conveyed. Likewise with the selection of advocacy media. AJI of Semarang City has succeeded in advocating for repressive actions in covering the demonstration against the Job Creation Law in Semarang on October 7, 2020. This success is inseparable from the communication media strategy used by AJI of Semarang City.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Various studies on violence against journalists and supervised by the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia have been carried out. Junaidin (2016) in his research on "The Role of the Makassar City of Independent Journalists Alliance (AJI) in Guarding Cases of Violence against Makassar Journalists" shows that the Makassar City of Independent Journalists Alliance (AJI) plays a role in guarding cases of violence against journalists. After receiving a report both verbally and in writing from the victim, as well as explaining the chronology of the incident in writing. To then follow up on the truth of the case, before submitting it to LBH Pers for assistance. In addition, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) of Makassar City prioritizes independence in carrying out any escorts against journalists who experience violence.

Likewise with Egidhia Pramesti's research (2019) regarding the intimidating treatment faced by journalists from the Bandung City of Independent Journalists Alliance (AJI). It shows that there are 3 categories of journalists' understanding of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) of Bandung

City regarding intimidating acts. Namely based on experience, attitudes to interpret the Press Law, physical and verbal violence. This study also shows that all the informants in this study, carry out their profession based on the journalistic code of ethics. And understand the risks of work, one of which is intimidating treatment. So it needs adjustments in carrying out their work. Next, the experience of being intimidated during the reporting gave rise to feelings of skepticism about reporting again. So that advocacy from the media or the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) becomes a solution through reporting to the Propam.

Hani Febriani (2019) in her research adds that cases of violence against journalists handled by AJI in Bandung City have different levels of difficulty and obstacles. Where the advocacy process is carried out on the condition that a report is available. No litigation process was carried out because there were no obstacles and obstacles. The Press Law and the Journalistic Code of Ethics are the references for the protection of journalists by AJI in the City of Bandung.

Meanwhile, Erieca Nur Hutaming Putri (2019) regarding the legal protection of journalist organizations in solving criminal cases of mistreatment of journalists in her research shows the results where journalists can receive protection if they are in media with legal entities based on the Press Law, carrying out their profession in accordance with the Journalistic Code of Ethics. Reporting to the authorities is an effort made by journalists' organizations in the event of a criminal act in accordance with existing regulations.

Meanwhile, the results of research from Muhammad Riza Auda Hutabarat (2017) show that the level of violence against journalists in the city of Medan is relatively low. What happens is because there are parties who are harmed by their reporting, due to the low individual understanding of the work of journalists and the attraction of interests. PWI SUMUT has been advocating for journalists who experience violence while carrying out their journalistic duties quite well. Although there are things that hinder legal advocacy, such as peace in the middle of the road between the victim and the perpetrator, so that the case does not reach the court. Which resulted in no deterrent effect or example for other elements.

The findings regarding violence against journalists and AJI's efforts to protect journalists from the above studies have not provided an overview of the advocacy efforts carried out through the media used. So in this paper the author will discuss the advocacy media used by AJI of Semarang City in guarding cases of repressive actions against journalists. Media as a medium to advocate.

3 RESEARCH METHODS

Using a qualitative approach with the case study method to explore a case more deeply by collecting various sources of information. As Creswell (Semiawan, 2010) said that case studies are understood as a tool to explore systems in the problem or case being studied. The constructivist paradigm used in this paper seeks to interpret human behavior which emphasizes the functions of language, interpretation, and understanding. The data sources used were obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation related to repressive actions against journalists that occurred in 2020 in Semarang, Central Java. The data were analyzed by triangulation method. Meanwhile, the informants in this study were the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) of Semarang City, especially the advocacy division.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Media Used by AJI in Semarang City

In an effort to advocate for journalists who experience repressive acts in 2020. AJI Semarang City takes non-litigation steps through mass media campaigns. The campaign was carried out using 2 types of mass media, namely online media and electronic media. The online media used are social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), Youtube Serat ID, website advokasi.aji.or.id, and online news portals (Tirto.id, Serat.id, Kompas.com, Suara.com, Ayosemarang.com, News.demokrasi.co.id, Beritamerdekaonline.com, Suarajawatengah.id).

While the electronic media used is television (Metro TV) and radio (Radio Elshinta). The selection of the media is based on the AJI network in Semarang City as a form of union solidarity to obtain justice. With advocacy efforts through mass media campaigns that refer to the S-M-C-R communication model. Source or sources in the form of complaints from victims, namely Muhammad Dafi Yusuf and Praditya Wibbi to AJI Semarang City. Messages or messages in this mass media

campaign are in the form of criticism of police officers who have hindered journalistic work through online media portals. Channels or message intermediaries in conducting media campaigns This mass is through online media and electronic media, while the online media used are social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), youtube Serat.ID, website advokasi.aji.or.id, and online news portals (Tirto.id, Serat.id, Kompas.com, Suara.com, Ayosemarang.com, News.demokrasi.co.id, Beritamerdekaonline.com, Suarajawatengah.id). Receiver or recipient of the message is the general public who access the media used by AJI Semarang City in seeking advocacy.

4.2 Media as Advocacy Medium for Repressive Action

Marshall McLuhan stated that the media can control the scale and form of human association (Kalia, 2021). The media can also make changes in innovation or the discovery of new ideas, while the message is the effect of these changes. The following is the media used by AJI in Semarang City as a medium in advocating for repressive actions.

1) Youtube as an Advocacy Message

Through the Serat.id Youtube channel which was uploaded on October 24, 2020, with the title "Can the Apparatus Ban Journalists from Covering? Here's the Answer". Presented to educate the public about the authority of the apparatus in limiting the work of journalists. Youtube is a very flexible container with its content. More than just an entertainment medium, Youtube can also be a means of education and information. Which is adapted to events or phenomena in the community, from light to important ones. Youtube is one of the most popular media today, so that audiences can access it easily. The Serat.Id Youtube channel is a media subsidiary of AJI, Semarang City, actively producing content related to the latest news and information about the realm of the journalist profession. One of them is the production of content that aims to respond to the restrictions on journalists' work by the authorities, which occurred during the disbandment of demonstrators during a demonstration against the Omnibus Law Job Creation Act on October 7, 2020 in Semarang. There are at least 3 journalists who are prohibited from taking video recordings by the police, namely Muhammad Dafi Yusuf (Suara.com), Praditya Wibbi (Serat.id), and Rahadyan Trijoko Pamungkas (Tribun Jateng). In the 2 minute 52 second content, it appears that Edi Faisol, who was the chairman of AJI in Semarang City at the time, expressed his condemnation of the actions of the officers who hindered the work of journalists while covering the violence committed by the officers against demonstrators in the protest against the Job Creation Act. Omnibus Law in front of the Central Java DPRD building.

2) Website advokasi.aji.or.id as an Advocacy Message

Cyber technology product websites are familiar to the public, anyone can manage and access them. Both individually and in groups adapted to the intended use. The advocacy website advokasi.aji.or.id is a means of advocacy for journalists who are victims of violence (physical and verbal), human rights violations, and other forms of professional harassment. The website advokasi.aji.or.id becomes a channel for collecting complaints and publications related to violations of journalistic work. The form of collection of complaints and publications is in the form of a release containing the chronology of the incident, the time of the incident, the identity of the victim, and the media where the victim works. In connection with this research, on October 7, 2020, there were 3 releases broadcast through the website advokasi.aji.or.id about the obstacles to reporting by police officers in the rejection of the Omnibus Law Job Creation Act in front of the Central Java DPRD building. The three releases, including "Journalists Forced to Delete Coverage Data", stated that Suara.com journalist Muhammad Dafi Yusuf was prohibited from covering the dispersal of demonstrators in front of the Central Java DPRD building and the forcible deletion of video recordings by the police. "Police Force Deletes Data for Serat.id Journalists", Praditya Wibbi received repression from 15 police officers not to record demonstrations in front of the Central Java DPRD building and forcibly delete video recordings. "Police Intimidating Journalists of the Central Java Tribune", Rahadyan Trijoko Pamungkas also experienced the same thing, namely being prohibited from recording events and forcibly deleting recordings by the police. In that event, the three journalists have shown their press identities. [Advokasi.aji.or.id](http://advokasi.aji.or.id) website is not just a media for collecting complaints and publishing the releases of journalists who are victims of intimidation or violence.

Moreover, the website advocat.aji.or.id serves as a reminder and track record that acts of repression, intimidation, acts of violence against journalists while carrying out journalistic duties still occur from time to time. So that the collection of complaints and publications can become material for evaluation and reflection for both parties. Or as a material for public discussion considering that the website is open to the public.

3) Online News Portal as Advocacy Message

An online news portal, a media that is attached to the speed of access to information, has become a medium for campaigning and forming opinions regarding the repressive actions of the police against journalists in Semarang, during the rejection of the Omnibus Law Job Creation Act by AJI Semarang City. Apart from being a presenter of facts, online news portals also have a role as a medium that participates in responding to events that occur in the community. In the repressive act against journalists in 2020, during the rejection of the Omnibus Law Job Creation in front of the Central Java DPRD building. There were 10 media that also responded to the incident. The messages conveyed from these news portals are almost the same, namely criticism of the police for obstructions to journalistic activities and the apparatus' lack of understanding of the press law. In this context, online news portals have terms of meaning, that online news portals do not only convey the facts of events in the field. But also participate in responding to the incident. In addition, the coverage of online news portals also made the audience aware that repressive actions against journalists while reporting were still happening.

4) Television as an Advocacy Message

Television, electronic media with the characteristics of heterogeneous, massive, and one-way audience reach. These characteristics become a separate strength for the electronic media in influencing the messages or impressions broadcast on television. In other words, television can be used as a tool to control or lead an issue through broadcasts to form perceptions and opinions in the community. AJI Semarang City collaborated with Metro TV to hold a press conference regarding repressive actions against journalists that occurred during coverage of the rejection of the Omnibus Law Job Creation Act in front of the Central Java DPRD building, on October 7, 2020. The press conference was represented by Edi Faisol as chairman AJI Semarang City who served at that time. In the press conference, Edi Faisol expressed his disappointment with the police officers who carried out repression on journalists who were covering, which at that time were Muhammad Dafi Yusuf (Suara.com), Praditya Wibbi (Serat.id), and Rahadyan Trijoko Pamungkas (Central Java Tribune). . The actions taken by the police are considered to have violated and hindered journalistic work. Where previously Nita had made an understanding between the Press Council and the Police, and they (police officers) did not understand and were aware of the memorandum of understanding. The press conference received a response from the Central Java Police Propam to follow up on its members who committed the act. In this case, the use of television as a tool to seek advocacy is able to provide the expected reciprocity, namely with the follow-up of the Central Java Police Propam.

5) Radio as an Advocacy Message

Electronic media with the characteristics of one-way, heterogeneous, massive, and once aired has become a radio identity. Similar to television, radio also has the power to shape perceptions and opinions to its listeners. The content of broadcast messages is able to provide control on a social scale. In the case of repressive actions against journalists carried out by police officers when reporting on the rejection of the Omnibus Law Job Creation Act in front of the Central Java DPRD building, on October 07, 2020. AJI Semarang City collaborated with Radio Elshinta to report on the incident and disappointment with the police officers who commit actions that have violated the memorandum of understanding made by the Press Council and the Police. The use of radio here aims to form an opinion that journalists often face obstacles in carrying out their journalistic duties from various parties, including the police officers in them. And it still happens from time to time according to AJI's records. The selection of radio is

considered effective because radio has a close relationship with its listeners, so that the message conveyed can be easily accepted by the listeners.

5 CONCLUSION

After analyzing data and information related to the media as advocating for repressive actions against journalists in 2020, the following conclusions are obtained:

a) Media Used by AJI in Semarang City

In an effort to advocate for journalists who experience repressive acts in 2020. AJI Semarang City takes non-litigation steps through mass media campaigns. The campaign was carried out using 2 types of mass media, namely online media and electronic media. The online media used are social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), Serat ID youtube, website advokasi.aji.or.id, and online news portals (Tirto.id, Serat.id, Kompas.com, Suara.com), Ayosemarang.com, News.demokrasi.co.id, Beritamerdekaonline.com, Suarajawatengah.id). Meanwhile, the electronic media used is television (Metro TV and radio (Radio Elshinta). The media selection is based on the AJI network in Semarang City as a form of solidarity with the unions to obtain justice. With advocacy efforts through mass media campaigns that refer to the S-M-C-R communication model. Source or sources in the form of complaints from victims, namely Muhammad Dafi Yusuf and Praditya Wibbi to AJI Semarang City. The message in this mass media campaign is in the form of criticism of police officers who have hindered journalistic work through online media portals. Channel or message intermediary in conducting this mass media campaign through online media and electronic media. The online media used are social media (instagram, twitter, and facebook), youtube Serat.ID, website advokasi.aji.or.id, and online news portals (Tirto.id, Serat.id, Kompas.com, Suara. com, Ayosemarang.com, News.demokrasi.co.id, Beritamerdekaonline.com, Suarajawatengah.id). Receiver or recipient of the message is the general public who access the media used by AJI Semarang City in seeking advocacy.

b) Media as a Medium for Advocating for Repressive

Actions The use of media used by AJI in Semarang City is in accordance with the characteristics of the media itself or the medium Is the message. Where the media is the message itself. The use of Serat ID youtube as an advocacy message is considered effective, considering that youtube is a flexible medium regarding its content and is sensitive to the latest issues, so youtube is suitable for responding to repressive actions against journalists in 2020 as an advocacy effort. The use of the website advokasi.aji.or.id The website advokasi.aji.or.id is not just a media for collecting complaints and publishing the releases of journalists who are victims of intimidation or violence. Moreover, the website advokasi.aji.or.id serves as a reminder and track record that acts of repression, intimidation, acts of violence against journalists while carrying out journalistic duties still occur from time to time. So that the collection of complaints and publications can become material for evaluation and reflection for both parties. Or as a material for public discussion considering that the website is open to the public. The use of online news portals as an advocacy message requires meaning, that online news portals do not only convey the facts of events in the field. But also participate in responding to the incident. In addition, the coverage of online news portals also made the audience aware that repressive actions against journalists while reporting were still happening. In this study, the use of David K. Berlo's S-M-C-R communication model in 1960 can prove the flow of efforts to advocate for repressive actions against journalists in 2020. However, the S-M-C-R communication model cannot show direct feedback, considering that this theory still adheres to the old media. Meanwhile, the use of the theory of the medium is the message from Marshall McLuhan in 1964 was able to prove the feedback obtained in advocating repressive actions against journalists in 2020, in which this theory refers to new media that provide convenience and speed of access.

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