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“Be Careful and Don’t Forget to Pray”: Indonesian Female Journalists’ Protocol in Dealing with Harassments

Aderia¹

Abstrak/Abstract

Female journalists’ safety is a long ignored and forgotten thing in Indonesian journalism. It has been ignored even by the female journalists themselves. They took the safety issues as a job risk and as the things they have to face regularly. Many female journalists, even the experienced ones, tend to take harassments or violence for granted. In addition, most of Indonesian female journalists even blamed themselves for being a victim. This paper is a research study which aims to figure out how Indonesian female journalists perceived the safety issues, challenges they have to face in the field, and challenges for the implementation of safety protocol in Indonesian media houses. Using the Standpoint Theory and adapting the qualitative research, the researcher conducted in-depth interviews of 7 female journalists in Jakarta. This research shows that most of female journalists experienced harassment in the field and did nothing about it, let alone to report it to their supervisors. This research was conducted in the hope of improving the safety concerns of female journalists and aims to guide both media houses and female journalists. This study suggests that there should be an appropriate system to maintain the female journalists’ safety.

Keselamatan jurnalis perempuan Indonesia terabaikan dan terlupakan sejak lama. Bahkan, oleh jurnalis perempuan sendiri. Mereka menganggap masalah keselamatan sebagai risiko pekerjaan dan merupakan hal yang wajar. Banyak jurnalis perempuan termasuk yang berpengalaman, menerima pelecehan atau kekerasan sebagai hal biasa. Kebanyakan jurnalis perempuan bahkan menyalahkan diri sendiri ketika menjadi korban. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana jurnalis perempuan Indonesia memahami isu keselamatan di lapangan, tantangan yang mereka hadapi serta hambatan untuk menerapkan protokol keselamatan di perusahaan media. Menggunakan Teori Standpoint dan metode penelitian kualitatif, peneliti melakukan wawancara mendalam dengan 7 jurnalis perempuan di Jakarta. Riset ini menemukan bahwa sebagian besar jurnalis perempuan mengalami pelecehan dan tidak melakukan apa-apa, bahkan untuk sekadar melaporkannya kepada atasan. Studi ini dilakukan dengan harapan dapat meningkatkan perhatian terhadap keselamatan jurnalis perempuan baik oleh perusahaan media maupun oleh jurnalis perempuan sendiri.

Kata kunci/Keywords:

Female journalists, Indonesian journalists, harassment, safety

Jurnalis perempuan, jurnalis Indonesia, pelecehan, keselamatan

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INTRODUCTION

The situation has been worsening for Indonesian journalists since early 2017, during the Jakarta gubernatorial election, especially for journalists covering campaigns and other polarizing public events. Many journalists got intimidated by mass and protesters, and even were harassed online by citizen of the net. Based on the records of The Alliance of Independent Journalists in Indonesia or Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI) Advocacy Division, during 2009-2018, the highest number of violence occurred in the last three years, 2016, 2017 and 2018, i.e. 80, 60, 64 incidents respectively.¹ According to The Alliance categories, types of violence that journalists have to

encounter include physical violence, prohibitions of coverage, terrors and attacks. Meanwhile, the main perpetrators are the masses or protesters and the police.

The situation is even harder for female journalists in a patriarchal culture like Indonesia. People often look down to female, including female journalists because they are female, especially for the protesters who mostly came from groups with a strict patriarchal culture. They eventually make female journalists as the object of harassment. In the field, Indonesian female journalists have to face verbal, physical, and even sexual harassment.

If the number of journalists being murdered or imprisoned is measured, Indonesia can be said to have a state of peaceful and safe journalism. However, if violence and harassment are the indicators, Indonesia is in a very bad condition. Indonesia ranks low in the World Press Freedom Index. In 2019, Indonesia placed 124th out of 180 countries.² The worsening climate for a free press and increasing number of (non-)reported harassments and violence to journalists, contributed to the nation's ranking in the Press Freedom Index of Reporters Without Borders or *Reporter Sans Frontières* (RSF). According to RSF, the intimidations and the government policy to ban foreign journalists to cover events in Papua, also contributed to that rank.

It is so hard to find valid and specific data about the number of female journalists in Indonesia. Even the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia and Press Council (*Dewan Pers*) could not provide it. The data the researcher got was the estimated number for the year 2012 from AJI according to their membership. It said only 347 female journalists who were members and that was only 18.6% of its total members (Luviana, 2012). The number does not change much in 7 years. According to the data received from Endah Lismartini, AJI's Head of Gender, Children and Marginal Groups, in 2019 there were only 344 female journalists out of 1846 members. The percentage is still exactly the same with 2012. Female journalists are still minority compared to male. In fact, the presence of female in the media is very important to balance the perspectives. The limited number of female journalists will reduce the publicity of the point of view or deep understanding of women. This imbalance does not only affect the view of the public related to women's issues but also public policies involving women. Reporter Without Borders or Reporters Sans Frontières (2017) said that male and female journalists cover the same areas and there should be no restrictions on reporting based on gender. However, in some cases women are recommended to take particular precautions in order to ensure their safety in dangerous areas.

Another danger which looms over female journalists is sexual harassment and violence. According to a study by the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF), which was carried out among

977 female journalists between August 2013 and January 2014, almost one respondent in two said she had been the target of sexual harassment in the course of her work.³ Although such pressure occurs mainly in the offices, it also happens on reporting assignments and at press conferences. In the same study, one respondent in seven said she had been subjected to physical harassment – mainly molestation – and eight in 10 said they did not report the incidents, with some saying they feared that would make them more traumatized (RSF, 2017).

In Indonesia, being a journalist is still considered a man's job. It derives from Indonesian culture which continues to prioritize patriarchy. The strong patriarchal culture in Indonesia is inseparable from the gender ideology of the thirty-two years' administration of the New Order era under Soeharto. The regime aimed to train women to be good housewives at home (Von der Lippe & Ottosen, 2016). The New Order gender ideology implemented an ideology in which women are expected to follow their natural destiny as a housewife and mother for their children. That goes for almost every aspects of life, including being a female journalist. There may not be gender discrimination in the editorial or newsroom. However, female journalists still face challenges in their dual roles as women workers, wives and mothers (Luviana, 2012).

The other facts that should not be denied in Indonesia is, the female journalists have to face a big issue in the matter of safety. The threats they receive are diverse and increasing. Unfortunately, not many female journalists in Indonesia dare to speak out. Most of them even take harassment or violence as a job risk. Indonesian journalists, both men and especially women, regard that being abused or being a victim of harassment is something that must be accepted as a job risk. Indonesian journalists even tolerate harassment and violence because they think this is a common practice. The situation has also been common, so many people consider it an ordinary situation (Luviana, 2012). This perspective is also reflected when talking about sexual harassment. Even the common pattern of journalism training teaches that being a journalist means you must be tough and fit in all situations.

The issue of sexual harassment in the workplace has also not shifted. The company does not yet have a policy and specific channels for complaints of harassment and sexual harassment at work. Complaints about sexual harassment are usually made directly to the boss. The situation becomes difficult when the perpetrators of harassment are superiors (Luviana, 2012). Endah Lismartini, The Alliance of Independent Journalists or AJI's Head of Gender Children and Marginal groups stated, "There is no clear way of handling; many cases of workplace harassment are ignored". The safety standards for female journalists, both for protection against crime and sexual harassment, and for

the complaints process for violence or sexual harassment, have not yet been met.

This paper presents an overview of journalism situation in Jakarta (the capital of Indonesia) focusing on female journalists' safety. The study also includes previous relevant studies. I considered Eide, Khalvatgar & Shirzad's study about Afghan journalists as a relevant study (Eide et.al, 2019) to my research. The research by Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) Indonesia in 2012 (Luviana, 2012) about the mapping of the working conditions of female journalists in Indonesia is also relevant. The research shows that Indonesian female journalists often experience gender-based harassments.

The main objective of this research is to identify harassments female journalists have to encounter in the field. This research is based on the interviews with 7 female journalists from different media outlets in Jakarta, including two senior journalists who already hold a managerial position. The main research question is: How do Indonesian female journalists perceive their safety? What are the challenges they have to face in the field? This research is conducted with the hope of improving the safety concerns of female journalists both to media houses and female journalists themselves.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Standpoint Theory

Standpoint theory was presented as a way of empowering oppressed groups, valuing their experiences, and pointing toward a way to develop an "oppositional consciousness" (Harding, 2004). Sandra Harding and Julia Wood claimed that *"the social groups within which we are located, powerfully shape what we experience and know as well as how we understand and communicate with ourselves, others, and the world"* (Griffin, 2012, p. 447). Harding claimed that *"when people speak from the opposite sides of power relations, the perspective from the lives of the less powerful can provide a more objective view than the perspective from the lives of the more powerful."*

Standpoint theory focuses on how circumstances of an individual's life affect how that individual understands and constructs a social world (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011). All formulations of standpoint theory contend that a standpoint arises when an individual recognizes and challenges cultural values and power relations which contribute to subordination or oppression of particular groups. Feminist standpoint theory focuses on "knowledge which arises from conditions and experiences that are common to girls and women". It is not conferred by the virtue of being female; it is a kind of political consciousness that develops as a result of reflection and awareness of the way women have been defined in a society (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011, p. 111).

Standpoint theory comes from several other theories which have emerged earlier. One came from Georg Hegel, a German philosopher who analyzed the relationship between employer and his

assistant (master-slave relationship). The results of his analysis say that what they know about themselves, other people and their social environment depends on the group they are in. For example, prisoners and prison guards have different interpretations of what law and detention are. According to Hegel's view, it can be said that whoever has great power in society will determine the history of "they are the ones who write the history books" (Griffin, 2009).

Sandra Harding and Julia Wood are some of the pioneers of this theory. They claimed that "the social groups we are in, are strong in shaping what we experience and also know how we understand and communicate with ourselves, others and the world" (Griffin, 2012, p. 447). Harding argued that "when people speak from the other side of the power relationship, a less powerful perspective on life can provide a more objective view of the perspective of a stronger life". That is, the perspective of the oppressed will be clearer than the oppressed.

The standpoint theory emphasizes on how the condition of the individual influences how the individual understands and builds the social world (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011). All formulations of standpoint theory state that stand point arises when an individual understands and challenges cultural values and power relations that contribute to the subordination or oppression of certain groups. Feminist standpoint theories focus on "knowledge that comes from circumstances and experiences common to children and women". This is not derived from the value of women, but a kind of political awareness which arises as a result of reflection and awareness of how women are defined in society (Littlejohn & Foss, 2011, p. 111).

Standpoint theory examines how the state of a person's life influences individual activities in understanding and shaping the social world. An individual's first view of something is not through social circumstances, role expectations, or gender definitions, but through individual experience in it. The standpoint theory also introduces an element of strength into the identity problem. People who are under pressure without power have different standpoints. They experience and understand it from a favorable perspective. Conversely, people in power do not need to learn and see from the standpoint of the person being pressed.

Gender and Journalism

According to the International Media Support, violence against journalists is a worrying trend which happens globally. Furthermore, women face increased risk due to their specific vulnerabilities entailed by gender (International Media Support, 2019). Women are subject to the same types of harassments as men but violence against them is very often manifested in the form of sexual attacks. Women also face risks in traditionally "safe" environments, such as their own newsroom. They are vulnerable to attacks not only from those attempting to silence their coverage, but also from sources and colleagues, and even family members.

IMS also stated that journalist's safety needs to be applied based on a gender-sensitive approach. A gender-sensitive approach requires understanding and consideration of different experiences, views and needs of women and men and those with other gender identities (International Media Support, 2019). In Indonesia especially, more and more cases of attacks and harassments of women journalists are being recorded by The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI). However, most victims remain silent. A commissioner of the Indonesia's National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) stated that women are more vulnerable to gender-based violence in a patriarchal society such as Indonesia, where men dominate nearly all aspects of life and women are expected to be subservient (International Media Support, 2019).

A research by The Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) also found that Indonesian female journalists still experience gender-based violence. Female journalists experience sexual harassment when reporting. This form of intimidation is often carried out by male informants, namely by groping or seducing. There are even female journalists who claim to have been asked to date the sources (Luviana, 2012).

METHODOLOGY

The main data collection in this research is in-depth interviews with 7 active female journalists, both reporters and editors from different kind of media in Jakarta-Indonesia. Through in-depth interviews the research explored the perception of safety issues in female journalists. Their experiences related to safety issues were also explored. This research also included literature studies about articles which are relevant to the research questions from various sources like books, journals and the internet. Data were then analysed by descriptive analysis method.

Because this research is about the perceptions of female journalists, all informants are female journalists. Creswell (2007) stated that in qualitative research informants should be determined from the beginning or before the research was conducted. Therefore, the selection of informants in the study was conducted purposively in accordance with the needs of the study. The characteristics of the informants were: active female journalists with minimum 3 years of experience, from different media houses, from different types of media, and including two informants who have occupied managerial position to explore the implementation of the safety protocol (if any).

The informants' age ranges from 26 to 41 years old. With a range of experiences from 4 to 18 years, 5 informants are from television since more female journalists in Indonesia work in television, 1 from print media, 1 from online media. The researcher also included a female journalist from Metro TV, a television station which had the most persecution and harassment in the field while this research was being conducted. There was also in-

formant from Chinese ethnic which is considered minority in Indonesia. In addition, the researcher also interviewed informant from an Indonesian television, which is affiliated with a famous international network to figure out whether or not the international standards are being applied.

Interviews were conducted in different places, using a list of questions developed according to the development of the conversation. Interviews were conducted in Indonesian language, transferred from voice to text (verbatim) and then translated into English.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In most cases, there's not much gender consideration in sending journalists to the field. Most of the informants said they get equal opportunities as their male colleagues. It was also observed that all of the informants surprisingly were ever being a victim of harassment, from being catcalled, touched, hugged, and verbally harassed, to intimidation for their life. Nevertheless, very few of these female journalists reported the harassments to their editors.

Informant #1 was a female journalist working for a television station which is affiliated to a famous international television network. She once became a victim of intimidation from the sources. Not only from outside, the threats for her safety also came from the office. She once got abandoned by her assignment editor for more than 7 hours during a bombing report. That incident raised concerns and evaluation from the television network in the United States. However, after that according to her, safety was still not a priority at her workplace.

"I felt threatened when doing the Akil Mochtar (an alleged corruptor) coverage alone. After getting an important finding, a guy, that I've never met before, regularly spied on me, waiting in front of my office, showing around my apartment, and even in front of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) where I usually do my coverage. A week later I got a direct call from an unknown man, asking me for not airing my report. Turned out, it was one of my media house's manager that gave my number to that person because they are relatives. I reported it to my manager and got advice to "be careful" and, that's all."

She got harassed not only *in the field but also at the office*. Harassment came from the sources and colleagues,

"From my sources, police officers and politicians. Like, asking me to stay in the same hotel and so on. Abuses also come from my colleagues, like hugging or sensitive and improper conversation in WhatsApp group. Too bad, my (female) bosses are also in that group and they said nothing about it."

The informant had a very strong understanding of feminism and human rights. Nevertheless, because of such permissive environment, she was not eager to report the harassment.

“Although my supervisors are female, I don’t trust them. I don’t even believe they will do anything. And I was afraid to be labeled as a weak or fragile journalist. My media house tends not to put this issue as a priority. They will only react when something happens, but do not provide enough knowledge on how to prevent it.”

Working in an international television network, she never got a comprehensive or even basic journalism safety, “*Never been taught anything. It’s just self-taught. I learned it from the field*”, she said. However, she also said that she desperately needed the safety training especially about female safety, because “*female journalists are often being abused and harassed by her friends and also the sources*”.

Informant #2 was a senior journalist, who was also a Deputy Editor in Chief in a print media. She has been trained about gender and sport in University of Tennessee. Being a journalist for 20 years, she said that “*Sports is not a sensitive issue. Female sports journalist is safe. We are treated equally*”. She once got harassed not from the sources but from a fellow journalist while covering World Cup 2010 in Africa. A male journalist cut the queue line and moved her by lifting her body out of the line. Then, there was nothing she could do about it. When it comes to harassment, she said that female journalists are “*voiceless*”.

The harassments happened when she had to do an interview with high rank officers. “*They usually will try to hug you...*”. Her media house conducted a training such as journalism in conflict, disaster journalism, but not a detailed and comprehensive one. She thinks there’s a bigger need in conducting a more comprehensive training and especially training for female journalists because the issues and handling of safety is different between male and female.

Informant #3 was a female journalist who often did sensitive coverages such as religious events or protests. She wore head scarf (*hijab*) but it did not fully cover her hair. She often got harassed by that condition. She said that threats could come surprisingly,

“We never knew it will come from whom and when. Like when I was reporting live and said ‘Rizieq Shihab’ instead of Habib Rizieq (one of the famous ulamas), the demonstrators yelled at me right away and asked me to use ‘Habib’. Different time, when interviewing an ulama, I asked “Is there a possibility for an ulama to commit a crime?” The people were directly angry with me”.

She was once being called “Zionist” by the pro-

testers in a riot. After that, she heard some of them said “*They’re from (mentioning the media house). Let’s kill them*”. In social media, people blamed her for wearing *hijab* while part of her hair was still exposed. Someone even commented in her company’s YouTube channel (regarding her *hijab*) “*I’d rather see a prostitute than a woman like this*”. She just ignored it. “*They already have a preconceived idea about me. As long as they don’t attack me personally, I won’t give a da*n sh*t.*”

Another type of harassment she experienced was suddenly being hugged and often being hit or pushed by protesters. Working in an established TV station, she said she never got a safety training.

“I got nothing, no safety training. My boss will just say, ‘be careful, don’t forget to pray’. I learned the safety by doing, known in the field, from asking a friend. Actually, there is a SnP (standards and procedures) in the office but you know, in Indonesia safety standard will be back to the culture, praying”

She thinks she really needs to be trained about basic safety things and especially about the female safety, because female journalists are more vulnerable to harassment and abuse. “*We need to be trained even in how to behave, and not using the sexuality to sources. Because I saw some cases happened and it’s a very vulnerable issue*”.

Informant #4 was a supervising editor, who was responsible for news gathering in Jakarta and bureaus. She has been a journalist for 18 years. She experienced harassments while covering sports and daily reports.

“It is never easy to be a female journalist because you are often less respected by male journalists. And being a female journalist, I feel that I have to just accept the harassment in the field as a job risk.”

The harassment she got varied from the elevator eyes, whistle, winking and body shaming. Furthermore, it was committed not only by sources but also fellow journalists and it happened not only outside but also in the office.

The worst thing was that she was never being provided with safety knowledge even though she has already worked in three different media houses. “*No know-how, only street knowledge and common sense to preserve my safety*”. The place she works now provided trainings but it was based more on reactions. She needs the training for her and her team to be conducted in more comprehensive and institutionalized way. In addition, it is more important to conduct trainings for female journalists because she thinks there’s a high male entitlement culture that affects society. “*I am often being considered ‘too much’ or ‘exaggerating’, when I raise the harassments issue. The culture is still so permissive to harassments happened to female journalists*”.

“For me, office is my second home, so I have to

feel safe while working. My company has to preserve our safety." Her work place sometimes conducted training but it was only case by case instead of being comprehensively. A focused safety training for the female journalists is what her media house has to provide immediately because the issues are different for males and females.

Informant # 5 was a female journalist from a targeted tv station. It was targeted because the media house was considered a political partisan to one of the presidential candidates. They often got harassment in the field from other candidate(s). The journalists, when covering sensitive events, had to take off the microphone flag and were told to never reveal their identities. The informant was 26 years old.

"I always feel threatened, cautious, and can only count on self-protection. I have to always stay alert everywhere. My TV station is politically inclined to certain candidates. People on the street will always mention that. Sometimes I argue with them and they cannot really explain why they hate us so much. But more often, I just stay calm."

She was once being verbally harassed by a political opposition. She asked a question and the politician didn't even look at her. She insisted and the politician said, "It was not you, it's your media house I don't like". In a different occasion, another politician said to the journalist, "Media is good and bad. All of you are good but not (mentioning her media house)". She also got harassed sexually by one of her sources,

"Being a female journalist, I feel that I am treated differently from my fellow male journalists. My sources asked me to have a cup of coffee with him and insisted I sat next to him. And then he asked me to sit closer. He tried to hug and touch me. That kind of thing won't happen to my male friends."

Often being harassed and becoming a violence target, the media house told her and other journalists to maintain their physical safety by not using uniform, ID card or microphone flag. In a way, the media house reminded the journalists but there were no such things as a standard procedure. There was no safety training nor a specific moment to teach the journalists about safety. Therefore, she thinks she really needs safety training specifically for women because, "I really need it because I don't know whether I've done things right. I like to confront my sources when being harassed. Is that the right thing to do? I never know".

Informant #6 was a female journalist from a news television station. She was also a graduate student studying journalism. She is a Chinese descent who often got harassed by people because she belongs to a minority class. Safety issues became a concern in her media house after the me-

dia car was being hit by protesters. After the chaos, they now conduct safety briefing before any sensitive and dangerous coverage. She has been taught to cover her identity, wear scarf, wear helmet, etc., but the briefing was only for the team who would go to the event, not for all journalists.

She was often being harassed verbally by the police who asked her to go out or message her out of professional topics. "First, I cannot understand what to do and how to react. My office never taught me how to maintain networking while at the same time preserve my safety. The harassment also came from my colleagues in the newsroom. They often share (in other WhatsApp group) the photos of pretty female reporters." However, she never got harassed for being a Chinese because she already got herself prepared.

She thinks her media house is already concerned about safety issues but has not provided the equipment needed, such as a proper mask during disaster coverage or the life jacket. Nonetheless, she thinks there is no need for a specific training for women because she wants to be treated equally.

Informant #7 was a journalist at an online media. She was a victim of a sexual harassment by a very well-known sport grand master in the country. Only a few people know, and the case has never been revealed.

"The sexual harassment happened to me very unexpectedly, because that man was so nice to us. First, he looked at me differently, and then he hugged me from behind. I was so shocked; I didn't do anything. And then I tried to laugh for my defense."

After that, she told her cameraman and surprisingly, that guy said, "Naah, come on. It's just a common thing. Just ignore it, we have to get the story from him".

The harassment happened again in the next interview still from the same person. The guy told her that she looked tired and he could do a treatment by massaging her breast. She was shocked and ran downstairs. However, she did not have the courage to report it to the office because she didn't want to be considered as causing troubles. In addition, she thought she had no proof either. "I was so shocked. I'm wearing jeans and loose shirt, you know. But my camera person said it's a common thing I have to face". She ended up blaming herself for being a victim and never reported it to the office.

She never got safety training; she just used her intuition and self-knowledge from internet or YouTube. She was never taught about sexual harassment and that's why she blamed herself. "Female are more vulnerable, and my male colleagues also need to be trained about how to treat a sexual harassment victim".

In 2012, The Alliance of Independent Journalists or AJI's research found that Indonesian female journalist still experience gender-based

violence. The condition remains the same. All informants interviewed in this research were found to have suffered from intimidation, harassment and violence. The harassments are varied from being catcalled, physical violence to sexual harassment. Harassment and violence come from people or the masses in the field, sources and even fellow journalists.

Almost all interviewed female journalists were reluctant to report or process the harassment they experienced. They thought it was useless because the environment would just allow the incidents. Not just fellow journalists, the supervisors even the female one, will not pay much attention to such issues. Fear to be considered weak or not tough, and fear of being blamed is the reason why female journalists do not report the harassment they encountered. Some even think it is their own fault to be a victim of harassment.

All informants, which come from different medias, stated that they had not received enough safety training. Some of them gained insight or strategy for surviving harassment and violence through their experience in the field. Meanwhile, some got safety training after incidents happened. There is also no specific safety training for female journalists, although this is considered important because the forms of harassment female journalists have to encountered are different from those of men. However, one informant thought that she did not need special safety training for female journalist because she wanted to be treated equally.

Standpoint theory examines how the state of a person's life influences individual activities in understanding and shaping the social world. An individual's first view of something is through individual experience in it. The female journalists I interviewed showed that their understanding of harassments was based more on experience in the field than knowledge provided to them. Due to the lack of knowledge, they take the harassments in the field as a common thing and job

risks. The impact is the fear of reporting harassments and intimidation to the supervisors. At the same time, the knowledge in dealing with harassments also comes from the experience in the field. Therefore, when dealing with safety, the female journalists tend to use the experience in dealing with harassment problems.

CONCLUSION

This research shows that female journalists still experience gender-based violence. Most of them, both senior and junior, experienced harassment in the field, from being catcalled, pushed or being hit, got intimidation and even sexual harassment, both verbal and physical. Harassment and violence come from the sources in the field and also fellow journalists. Most of them did nothing about it, even only to report it to their supervisors. They were so afraid of being called weak or not tough. Moreover, it was sometimes even worse, as the informants thought that being a victim was their own fault.

Their understanding of harassments was based more on experience in the field than knowledge provided to them. They tend to handle the harassment or violence based on their own experience rather than knowledge. Most of the female journalists, both senior and junior, never get any proper safety training in the media house. Some of them get trained only for specific topics about safety, but most of them maintain their safety by self-knowledge or using self-intuition. In the meantime, their supervisors only gave them a 'be careful' and 'don't forget to pray' advise for their knowledge of safety.

It is very important to increase the concern and the implementation of safety procedure for journalists. Moreover, given the difference in threats received by female journalists, it is essential for media houses to conduct special safety training for female journalists. The safety concerns of female journalists both to media houses and to female journalists in Indonesia have to be improved.

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Footnote:

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