

### Really? This week's non-story.

*The prize goes to any reporter that thought it worth their time to report Hishammuddin saying he would go all Magnum PI and track down Jho Low. What a waste of newsprint! May as well report that the earth is flat and we're being colonized by celery-aliens, it's as newsworthy, and accurate.*

## Take action!

We've been promised a lot, but not much has been delivered, so this week we're going to target the Law Minister Datuk V. K. Liew to ask him to repeal the Printing Presses and Publications Act.

Write to him at [vkliew@jpm.gov.my](mailto:vkliew@jpm.gov.my), and politely tell him:

1. There's no need for a permit to print. Terrorists aren't going to ask permission.
2. That you have already drafted the bill for the repeal of the PPPA for him, so he doesn't need to bother. The bill states "This is an Act to repeal the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984."
3. His coalition made a promise. Didn't his parents teach him not to break promises when he was a little boy?

# Berita Tandas

What you need, when you need it.

### Media freedom scorecard, October 2018

#### For

The Cabinet decided on a moratorium for prosecutions under the Sedition Act.

#### Against

We're still waiting for a consultation on CMA reform; for repeal of the Sedition Act & PPPA.

**OVERALL RATING: 5/10**

### What's happening elsewhere?

- Papua New Guinea is banning a movie about human rights violations and a land grab involving big business. Watch the trailer at [theoppositionfilm.com](http://theoppositionfilm.com).
- In India, women journalists are reporting sexual harassment at the workplace. Fortunately nothing like that happens in Malaysia. Right?
- In Vietnam, a dissident blogger (Mother Mushroom) has been released from jail. Yay!

## Law of the week: Printing Presses and Publications Act

It's hard to believe that we still have to discuss this one, but here we are. The PPPA seems to be undergoing a renaissance of sorts, with some people believing that there are national security reasons to control the press or printers. Let's be clear, there aren't. The PPPA requires that anyone who wants to regularly publish something (like, say a bulletin to be posted in restrooms) requires a permit. Now, let's imagine we are a seasoned terrorist organization, wanting to print how-to booklets on suicide bombing. Does the Ministry really, really think they're going to be looking to do this legally? I have a sneaking suspicion that they aren't going to be coming in to the Home Ministry, dynamite in hand, saying, look, we'd like to do a weekly newsletter. All the PPPA does is control those who want to publish legitimately, it doesn't prevent a terrorist network from using covert means to talk to their members. It's time for this outdated colonial law to be consigned to the dustbin of history where it belongs. **Call on your MP to REPEAL not rework the PPPA!**