

PRESS STATEMENT

5 July 2024

CIJ Condemns Sexual Harassment Against Journalist in Sungai Bakap By-Election

The Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ) condemns the [sexual harassment of the woman journalist covering the by-election campaign in Sungai Bakap](#) recently. This incident showcases the unsafe environment for women media practitioners who face undue targeting due to their gender, deterring them from doing the duty conferred onto them. All media practitioners, especially women practitioners, must be treated with respect and protected from any threats that cause harm to themselves and the people around them so they may effectively inform the people on public interest issues.

We call for firm action to be taken against the perpetrators of this incident. As such, we urge for this police investigation to be done as swiftly and thoroughly as possible. We must not condone actions like this especially against one carrying out their professional duty.

By showcasing a swift and thorough investigation and action against the alleged perpetrator we can increase the confidence of journalists to carry out their duties and help eliminate the culture of fear that has plagued those in the media industry. Event organisers, including in this case the politicians and political parties should also ensure effective measures are in place to prevent any form of sexual harassment at their events.

CIJ will continue to monitor and demand that all parties fight for this issue as part of the demand for institutional reform to protect our fourth pillar of democracy and the people in Malaysia.

5 July 2024

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For further inquiries, please contact Lim Jih-Ming at comms@cijmalaysia.net

The Centre for Independent Journalism is a non-profit organisation that aspires for a society that is democratic, just and free where all peoples will enjoy free media and the freedom to express, seek and impart information.