

# Google Goes that Extra Progressive Mile for Sharia

In my editorial, I deplore the increasing censorship of the social media. Conservative commentator Tucker Carlson, who has a political talk show on Fox News, made similar observation about social (and regular) media in a recent video called "We're becoming an authoritarian society."

He remarked on how people disappear from social media. One day they're expressing a dissenting political opinion and the next time you look for them they're gone. Their videos disappear and they no longer show up on people's Facebook feed. Amazon stops selling their books.

They've been banned for being extremists, bigots, Nazis. "You don't complain about it, though. You don't want anyone to know you were watching forbidden videos. There's a penalty for that. This is what an authoritarian society looks like. It's a place where the group in charge will tolerate no criticism at all. That's what we're becoming," Carlson said.

Given social media enforcement of progressive orthodoxy in this part of the world, it may seem contradictory that Google Play Store approved the app Smart Pakem, allowing Muslims in Indonesia's capital Jakarta to report violations of sharia law such as blasphemy and heresy. The app was created by the Jakarta prosecutor's office.

The criminal code of Indonesia, the poster country for "liberal Islam," prohibits blasphemy and makes it illegal to "express feelings of hostility, hatred, or contempt against religion," for which the penalty is five years in prison. And, as Jakarta's Christian governor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama — better known as Ahok — can attest, they mean it. In 2017, he was sentenced to two years in prison for blasphemy.

Fundamentalist Islam is resurging everywhere in the world, so the demand for more religious vigilance in Indonesia comes as no surprise. What is shameful is Google's acquiescence to something that will inevitably result in increased religious persecution.

Shameful — but perhaps not surprising. Illustrating the alliance between progressives and Islamists, the seeming contradiction of social media penalizing anyone whose views too egregiously transgress against the progressive orthodoxy over here and the Islamic orthodoxy over there actually makes sense.

—Madeline Weld

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