# Tech-Enabled Abuse as a Democratic Threat: Lessons from Indonesia
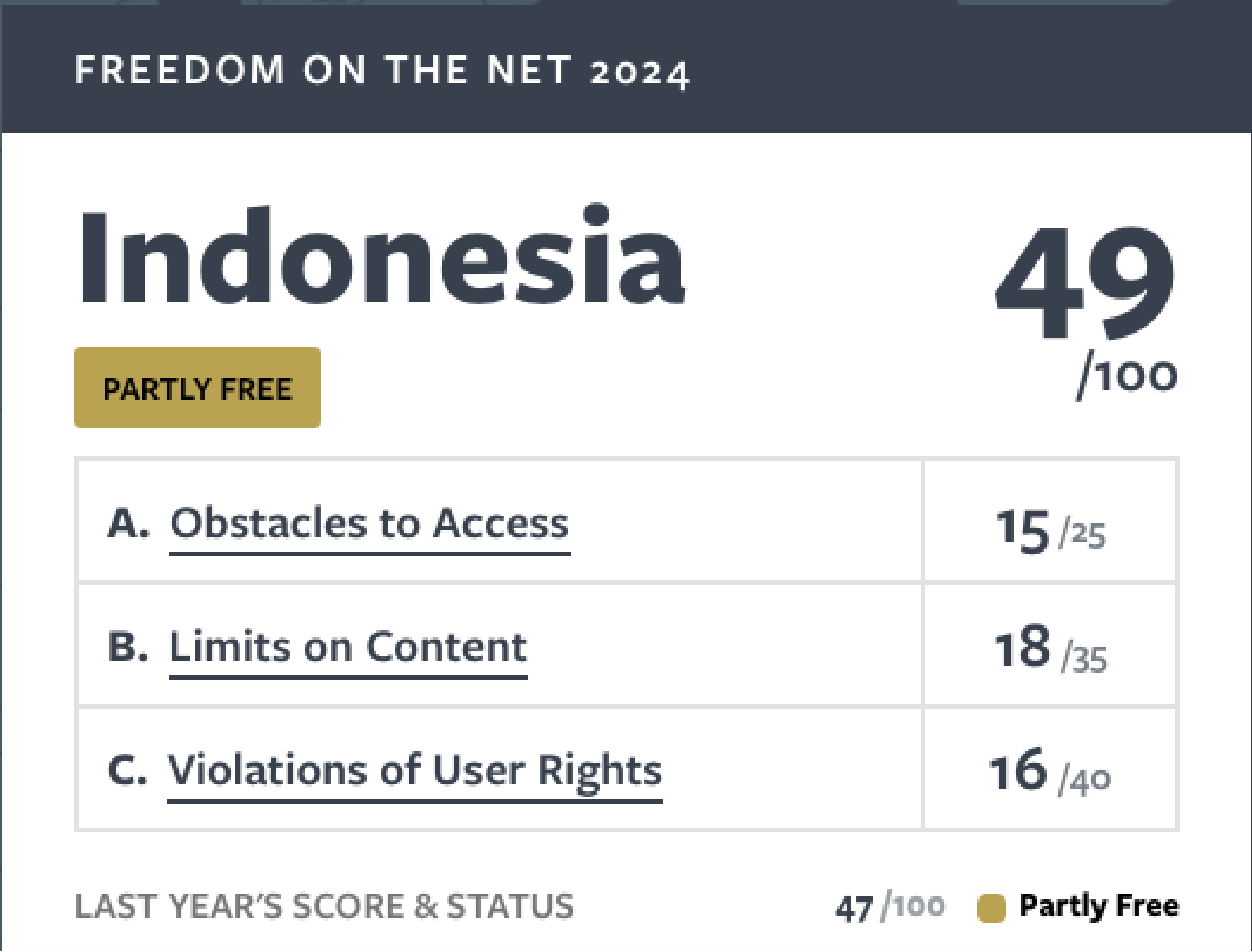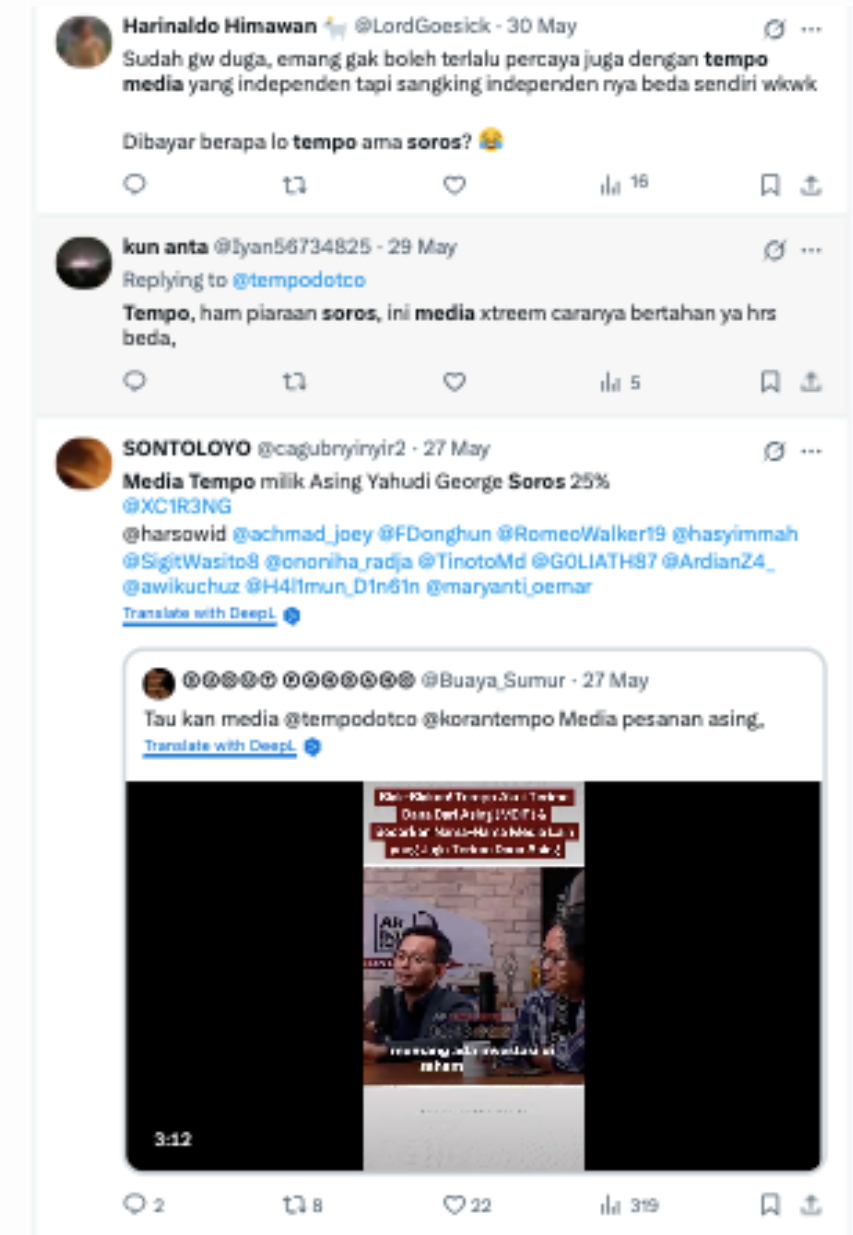
*Ika Ningtyas*
*Fact-checking coordinator*

# Tech's contribution to the decline of Indonesia's democracy (2014-2024)

- Their algorithm has been fueling harmful political disinformation and hate speech during election in 2014, 2016, 2019.

- Contributed to the disrupting economy of independent media.

- Advanced tech is easily weaponized to surveillance and doing digital attack targeting human right defenders.

**FREEDOM ON THE NET 2024**

## Indonesia

**49** /100

PARTLY FREE

| A. Obstacles to Access | 15 /25 |
|---|---|
| B. Limits on Content | 18 /35 |
| C. Violations of User Rights | 16 /40 |

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS    47 /100    **Partly Free**

- Information and disinformation operations involve cyber troops and macro influencers.

- Digital attacks are used to silence critical groups.

- abusing the law as a new form of digital repression, such as defamation, fake news, and hate speech..

# Within the contemporary resurgence of authoritarianism and militarism, emerging technologies are systematically deployed to entrench political authority and reconfigure societal dynamics:



Coordinated influence operations leveraging artificial intelligence have been deployed to secure electoral victories and suppress civic dissent within digital arenas, exemplified by the #IndonesiaGelap movement. Independent media institutions such as Tempo were also subjected to delegitimization campaigns, framed through narratives portraying them as "foreign proxies" allegedly financed by Soros.

- The unclear definitions of defamation, fake news, content that disturbs public order in the law and regulations, danger freedom of expression and freedom of press.

- Granting the government broad authority to request social media platforms to remove content and impose fines, without independent and transparent mechanisms.

- Content moderation is only interpreted as either removal or no removal.

- The safeguarding of citizens' rights against the potential risks posed by artificial intelligence remains severely underdeveloped.

**CONTENT MODERATION AND AI ISSUE**

# STRATEGIC RESISTANCE AND THE CULTIVATION OF RESILIENCE



**Legal mechanism**: judicial review of problematic law or regulation.

**Strengthening critical NGO, pro bono advocate networks**, and services to respond to digital security issue.


#INDONESIAGELAP

**Strengthen investigative journalism and fact-checking to** monitor domestic information operations on a regular basis.

**Strengthening the capacity of communities and critical groups** in digital activism to create counter-narratives against pro-authoritarian government narratives and unfair algorithms.
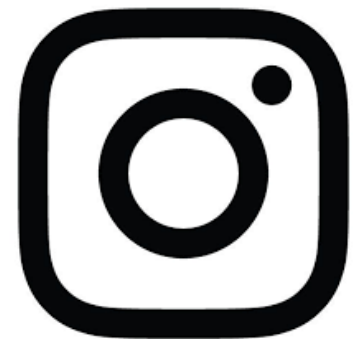
# Let's connect!

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