

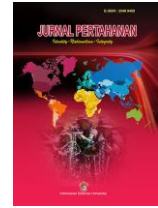


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STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN NATIONAL SECURITY PERSPECTIVES (CASE STUDY OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATION BY *BADAN EKSEKUTIF MAHASISWA SELURUH INDONESIA* OR BEM SI ON APRIL 11, 2022)

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Abstract

National security is a battle against threats from both within and outside the country. It is the same with the recent demonstration by *Badan Eksekutif Mahasiswa Seluruh Indonesia* (BEM SI) or Student Executive Board throughout Indonesia. The demonstration can be both an opportunity and a challenge in the development of national security. This study will provide insight into how the BEM SI demonstration on April 11, 2022, which is expected to bring demands on the issue of postponing the 2024 election and a three-term term for President Jokowi, will affect national security. This study employs descriptive quantitative research, with data collected by a survey of 200 students throughout Indonesia. The findings of this study indicate that the BEM SI demonstration was on April 11, 2022. Social media plays a role in influencing student behavior to take action. As a result, students should evaluate demonstration practices and reclaim their role as agents of change.

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INTRODUCTION

A country's national security is essential. This is because national security is a battle not only against visible threats in front of the eyes but also against threats that are not visible to the naked eye. Since the passage of the Draft National Security Law in 2005, the legality of this national security has yet to be confirmed (Supriyatno, 2014). Looking back, it appears that

national security is changing in tandem with the advancement of globalization, which raises threats with the potential to devastate the entire country. Security is frequently thought to be primarily concerned with the country's defense against attacks by other countries. The Copenhagen School, refutes this, emphasizing that security is a matter of survival, and thus security issues are

inextricably linked to existing threats, including non-military issues (Muhaimin, 2018). This school divides security into five categories namely military security, environmental security, the economy, society, and politics. Furthermore, following the demise of the Soviet Union and the world's entry into the era of information technology, the security paradigm shifted from state-centered to people-centered (human security) and made community participation unavoidable from the perspective of national security (Indrawan, 2017).

As a side effect, the concept of national security has four dimensions namely national defense, domestic stability, public order, and human security. As a consequence, national security can be defined as a government's political effort to create safe conditions for the implementation of the government and the life of the nation and state to achieve national goals and interests in the face of all disturbances and threats both within and outside the country.

As previously stated, threats are complex and are influenced by the times. Threats were initially thought to be only military threats, but today they have evolved into multidimensional patterns and types of threats in the form of military threats, non-military threats, and hybrid threats that can be classified as real or unreal threats (Wither, 2016). Military threats involve the use of armed and organized force, meanwhile, non-military threats are essentially threats that use non-military factors that are considered to have capabilities that endanger the state's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. Non-military threats can have ideological, political, economic, sociocultural, technological, and information dimensions in addition to public safety implications. Non-military threats have a sociocultural dimension because they originate within the state. Because it is stimulated by issues of poverty, ignorance, backwardness, and

injustice, this type of threat has a socio-cultural dimension. These concerns are intertwined with sociocultural concerns. These issues then become the starting point for problems such as social conflict, separatism, terrorism, violence, and human-caused disasters. Hybrid threats are threats that combine military and non-military components. Combining conventional, asymmetric, terrorist, and cyber warfare threats, as well as diverse and dynamic criminal threats, constitute hybrid threats (Siahaan & Risman, 2021). Similar to the recent student demonstrations in which they declared themselves as *Badan Eksekutif Mahasiswa Seluruh Indonesia* or BEM SI (Student Executive Board throughout Indonesia) on April 11, 2022. This demonstration was held in front of the People's Representative Council and People's Consultative Assembly building on Monday, April 11, 2022, and called for four demands namely (1) urging and demanding that people's representatives listen to and convey the aspirations of the people, not the parties' aspirations; (2) people's representatives should take up the people's aspirations as demonstrated by the mass actions held in various regions from March 28 to April 11, 2022; (3) urge and demand that the people's representatives refrain from amending the state constitution; and (4) steadfast in rejecting the postponement of the 2024 election or a three-term in presidential term and urging and demanding that people's representatives submit a study to the president, accompanied by 18 student demands that have yet to be answered (Mutiarasari, 2022).

If we look closer at this phenomenon, we should appreciate demonstrations because they are mandated by the constitution. Furthermore, with the passage of reforms, the tap on democratic freedom has been opened wide. However, if demonstrations are carried out inappropriately, it will have an impact on national security due to restrictions on

government policies as well as when demonstrations are carried out based on preferences expressed on social media, the truth of which cannot be determined. This became one of the catalysts for the emergence of student protests in Indonesia on April 11, 2022.

According to sociocultural tradition the media can shape power in society (Patriani, 2017). Media production reacts to and influences social and cultural developments. The media performs a variety of important functions in society, such as framing information, influencing opinion, providing entertainment, setting the agenda for issues, and so on. Especially if it is associated with the Agenda Setting Theory which states that the media places a certain emphasis on an event so that what the media considers important is ultimately considered important by the audience (Ghofur, Widodo, Jara, & Qorib, 2021). Tawaang conducted previous research on the media agenda examining four Jakarta newspapers and demonstrating a link between the media agenda and the public agenda (Tawaang, 2015). It is nothing new when today's media is involved and has accounts on almost every social media platform, which is, of course, the best place to spread information, especially among the millennial generation, who are addicted to social media.

Social media is one of the consequences of technological advancements and the growth of new media today. Couldry describes the two risks of social media as they become embedded and rooted in society, particularly between the rhythms and routines of daily life (Markham, 2016). The first risk is that society believes that anything that happens in the media is direct evidence of a larger political reality. This means that what appears in the media today is regarded as a direct representation of current reality. The second risk is accepting that the media is now a place where important things happen. The media crowds out other political spaces that deserve attention and investigation, and it

has the potential to lose sight of developing political ways of thinking, leading to logical fallacies (Istiningdias & Argenti, 2019). The media are critical to the development of democracy and the affirmation of freedom. The media also constructs massive control rooms and fosters collective consciousness. However, the development of the media poses a serious threat to fundamental national values. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to examine how BEM SI students demonstrated on April 11, 2022, from a national security perspective.

METHODS

This study uses quantitative research and data collection techniques such as a survey. Survey research is a type of activity that has become ingrained in society. Survey research evolved as part of a positivist approach to the social sciences. According to Robert Groves surveys generate naturally statistical information, which eventually becomes the basic form of quantitative research (Adiyanta, 2019). The design used in this study is a cross-sectional design in which the respondents' choices represent a fairly large population (Creswell, 2016), namely Indonesian students who relate to the demonstration by BEM SI students on April 11, 2022.

Table 1. Explanation of research method specifications

Subject	Social Sciences	
Spesific subject area	National Democratic	Security,
Type of data	Primary data, Graph	
How data were acquired	Data were acquired through an online platform survey (Kuesio.id) given to students throughout Indonesia by random sampling. The questionnaire is provided as a supplementary file. The acquired data were analyzed using Kuesio.id	
Data format	Raw, analyzed, and descriptive data	
Parameters	The survey data were	

for data collection	acquired from 200 students in the period of April-May 2021
Description of data collection	Assistance with probability sampling and a combination of random samples were used to select students as respondents through Kuesio.id.
Data source location	The survey was conducted among active university students in Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, Bali, and Papua.

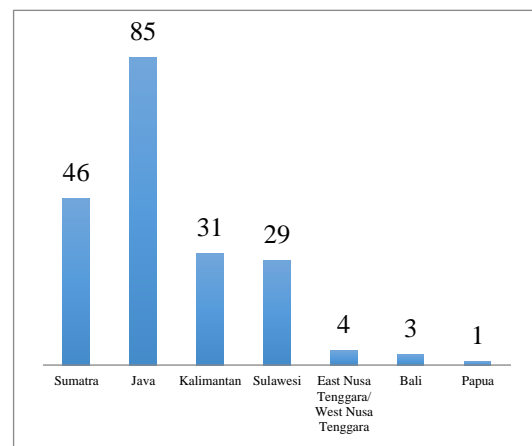
Source: Processed by the Author, 2022

Considering the size of the population, the researchers used the internet and the website kuesio.id to collect and process data from 200 active students studying at universities in Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, and West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, Bali, and Papua. The data analysis technique used is descriptive data analysis, which involves describing or explaining the data obtained from the survey in its entirety. The data from the online survey, which was completed by filling out a questionnaire on kuesio.id, was analyzed in a simple quantitative descriptive way and presented in a frequency distribution graph (Paling, Sepling, 2021) to provide an overview of Indonesian students' perceptions of the BEM SI students' demonstration on April 11, 2022.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Demonstrations are very common among people, especially in countries that claim to be democratic. Student protests are not new in the world. Many demonstrations were carried out by students around the world, such as the Tiananmen Square student action to protest against the oppressive communist government (Xie, 2019), the Kent State University in Ohio student demonstration against the Vietnam War (Kershner, 2022), the Velvet Revolution as a student action to fight

government tyranny (Howe, 2021), and the student movement to move the New Order government to reform. The issue arises when the demonstration no longer serves its original purpose of allowing people to express their opinions. Many of the protesters identified themselves as members of the larger community. This is already protected by law in Indonesia. Furthermore, students are regarded as agents of change and pillars of democracy. The BEM SI demonstration on April 11, 2022, was said to be one of the efforts to revive democracy, let alone the emergence of symptoms of government injustice. BEM SI is the Student Executive Board Alliance throughout Indonesia, which was established on December 24, 2007, in Bogor and has 30 universities as members, claiming to be representatives of students throughout Indonesia (Putsanra, 2022).

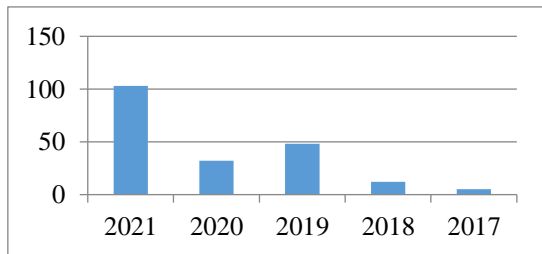


Graph 1. Distribution of samples by university island location.

Source: Processed by the Author, 2022

According to Graph 1, the sample consisted of 46 students from universities on the island of Sumatra, 85 students from universities on the island of Java, 31 students from universities on the island of Kalimantan, 29 students from universities on the island of Sulawesi, 4 students from universities on the islands of East Nusa Tenggara or West Nusa Tenggara, 3 students from universities on the island of Bali, and 1 student from universities on the island of Papua, where the total number of

students is 200. This is accomplished to ensure that the sample is representative of the population, which is based on universities on Indonesia's seven major islands.



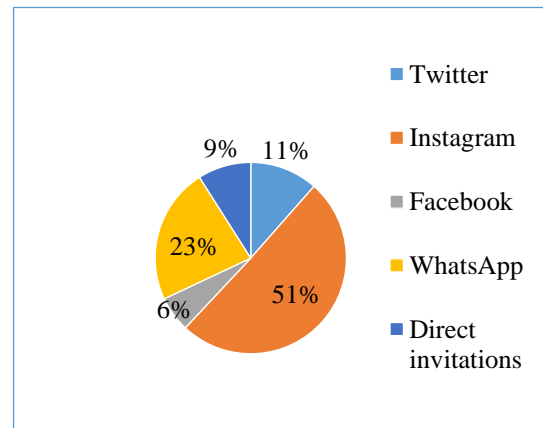
Graph 2. Sample distribution by year of university admission

Source: Processed by the Author, 2022

Graph 2 depicts the sample distribution based on the year of entry to the university, with 103 students from the cohort of 2021, 32 students from the cohort of 2020, 48 students from the cohort of 2019, 12 students from the cohort of 2018, and 5 students from the cohort of 2017. This is done to prove how the entry force to the university influences respondents' responses. According to the findings of a survey of 200 students from across Indonesia, 82.4 percent are aware of the student movement's plans for the April 11, 2022 demonstration. They obtain this information through a variety of intermediary media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, as well as broadcasts from WhatsApp and direct invitations from friends and others (Patriani, 2017).

This source of information shows that the power of new media, particularly social media, in disseminating information is a quite strong today (Markham, 2016). This source of data demonstrates that the power of new media, particularly social media, in disseminating information is quite strong today. This is consistent with new communication technologies, particularly interactivity and de-massification (Indrawan & Anwar Ilmar, 2020). Interactivity is defined as the ability to respond to or interact with new communication technology systems. In this case, a more interactive method like this

allows students to communicate with other students more quickly and effectively.



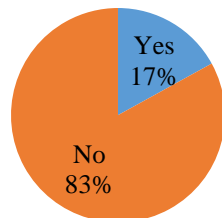
Graph 3. source of information for the BEM SI demonstration on April 11, 2022.

Source: Processed by the Author, 2022

Demassification, defined as a message communicated individually among students, can cover a large number of students. As a result, de-massification plays a role in control that is exerted by the media consumer rather than the message producer. According to the findings of a study, the means of communication from social media like Instagram are the largest media as a source of information on the invitation to carry out demonstrations. According to the statistics above, the social media platform Instagram is the most popular source of information about upcoming demonstrations. Of course, given that almost all students have an Instagram account, this has a fairly broad impact. Second, there's WhatsApp, particularly an invitation in the form of a broadcast, which doesn't know who started the message, whether it's a student or even another person who is willing to participate in this. Twitter, which is also popular among today's youth, is ranked third as a social media source for information on protest calls. Direct invitations, whether from close friends, student movements on campus, or other people, are ranked fourth. Facebook is ranked third, which contributes to the information source. As expected, students from the 2017–2021 class are not very active or do not even have a Facebook account because they are

often referred to as forum boomers. Based on this information, it is clear that social media is one of the most effective tools for organizing protests. It is a socio-cultural tradition that makes social media a source of empowerment for its users, particularly students. According to the findings of a study, the means of communication from social media like Instagram are the largest media as a source of information on the invitation to carry out demonstrations.

The COVID-19 development until the implementation of the BEM SI student demonstration on April 11, 2022, remains a threat that Indonesia must address. According to the April 7, 2022 Update, there are 78,302 active COVID-19 cases in Indonesia (Sari, 2022). Some colleges and universities continue to use online or hybrid learning. Leaving aside the learning conditions that are still being carried out online and/or offline, 83 percent of students do not intend to participate in demonstrations, while the remaining 17 percent do.



Graph 4. The desire of students to take part in demonstrations

Source: Processed by the Author, 2022

Some students did not take part in the BEM SI student demonstration on April 11, 2022, for three reasons such as demonstrations that were deemed inappropriate due to the aspiration that was conveyed with reality, the arena for seeking narcissism on social media, and fear of personal safety as well as the community surrounding the demonstration site.

First, demonstrations are deemed inappropriate due to the disparity between expressed aspirations and reality. As

several students have stated, “as a student, you should not be provoked by fake news on social media”, the demands are not in line with societal reality. Furthermore, the demonstration was very different from the original plan. They no longer convey what they want to put forward to urge and demand representatives of the people to listen to and convey the aspirations of the people rather than the aspirations of the party. They urge and demand representatives of the people to pick up the aspirations of the people as the mass actions that have been carried out from March 28 to April 11, 2022. They urge and demand that people's representatives do not betray the state constitution by making amendments, that they reject the postponement of the 2024 election or presidency for three terms, and that they submit a study accompanied by 18 student demands to the President that has yet to be answered (Mutiarasari, 2022). The focus of students shifted to efforts to demote the president, rejecting the three-term presidential term, and efforts to lower fuel prices, and some even became disconnected when students called for demands that violated societal ethics and norms, as shown in Figure 1 (Twitter, 2022). Students write inappropriate words on a demonstration board, which do not reflect their identity as educated, ethical, critical, and wise students.



Figure 1. A demonstration board was delivered by a small group of students on April

11, 2022, during the BEM SI student demonstration.

Source: Twitter, 2022

Consider some of the students listed above, it can be classified as a logical fallacy in which students make errors in compiling the correct logic in an argument (Istiningdias & Argenti, 2019). This cannot be separated from the influence of social media, which is a source of information and can even be considered a primary source of information for students. Couldry explains the dangers of social media (Markham, 2016). Students believe that what they see on social media is direct evidence of a larger political reality. This means that what appears in the media today is considered to be a direct representation of today's reality. Statements about the president that appear for three terms serve as a representation of today's political reality. Students are likely to have difficulty distinguishing between facts and opinions. If students are more critical, they should be able to see that the current President stated that "I don't know who started, and even the President has confirmed that he rejected three terms" (Lukas, 2021). Students should be able to learn how to respond to information from the demonstration of the Draft Bill of Criminal Code in 2019. Students must be able to restrain themselves when the information is uncertain and contradicts the facts.

Second, as in previous studies stated, demonstrations are used as an arena for narcissism or narcissism on social media (Markham, 2016; Jiwandono & Oktaviyanti, 2020). Narcissism is a personality disorder characterized by excessive self-love. Narcissists believe they are superior to others and have little regard for the feelings of others. However, narcissists have low self-esteem and are easily offended by minor criticism, despite their outward confidence (Engkus, Hikmat, & Karso Saminnurahmat, 2017). Today, the internet and social media are tools for people with narcissistic personality

disorders to actualize and exaggerate themselves by posting photos and videos of their accomplishments and various potentials on social media in the hopes of receiving recognition and appreciation from others (Santi, 2017). Furthermore, narcissistic people use social relationships to gain popularity, and they are always preoccupied with only being interested in things that concern them (Widyastuti, 2017). According to the study's findings, many people claimed that this demonstration was used as a platform for narcissism on social media to gain attention. This can be seen in several photos when they take action; they seek public attention by using eccentric words and become a source of pride despite having violated societal ethics and norms. Most of the actors are only there to have fun and show off, with no idea of what kind of aspirations they are expressing.

Third, the reason is apprehension about security, both personally and in the community surrounding the demonstration site (Indrawan, 2016; Wither, 2016). The ideals and primary goals of a country influence the purpose of national security in a government. The goals of the state in Indonesia are clearly stated in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution, namely to protect the entire Indonesian nation and the entire Indonesian homeland; to promote public welfare; to educate the nation's life; to participate in carrying out world order. Based on this, it is clear that the state must ensure the security of its citizens and create a sense of security for citizens, including security as a result of demonstrations. This is especially concerning when protests result in riots, anarchy, and even disruption of public order. Demonstrations, particularly those carried out by students, are frequently motivated by specific interests. Students should be more vigilant and not give individuals who wish to disrupt national security any space. Students must be critical; devise clear, directed strategies; and establish boundaries for students who

participate in the action. As mentioned by the respondents, there are numerous alternatives to demonstrations, which frequently result in anarchy. Since in conveying aspirations as students with intellectual abilities, they can use more honorable methods, such as sending representatives to directly meet with state officials, because the Student Executive Board is a large organization with the ability to open a discussion room with the House of Representatives. If the distance that hinders them can be covered through open forums through video conferences and can even be communicated via social media. It is now time to evaluate the student demonstrations that have taken place. Other respondents agreed, stating that they did not want to participate in the demonstration because it would cause harm everywhere, including clashes with police officers, damage to facilities and infrastructure, traffic jams, and even social fear (Adegbonmire, 2015). Don't let demonstrations meant to boost national stability turn into a state threat. Because, as previously stated, national threats have taken many forms, particularly those encountered today. Distrust in the government, officials, and even the ideology that has been adopted in Indonesia poses a serious threat. Students must pay close attention to the consequences of their actions.

On the other hand, student demonstrations have another side that does not entirely blame students, because some students genuinely want to convey people's aspirations, as well as some other students who are still unstable but passionate. This can be seen in the respondents' responses when asked why they participated in the demonstration, which stated that they wanted to fulfill their obligations as students, such as speaking up for the people, demanding justice, and prioritizing the public interest or the larger community. Aside from that, another reason is a sense of solidarity with fellow students, who are joining in and are curious about taking to

the streets for protests.

Demonstrations cannot be viewed as merely a form of protest. Protests have the potential to increase domestic terrorism. Individuals and groups from a wide range of extremist ideologies may see protests as an opportunity to plan and prepare attacks on legitimate targets such as governments, officials, and law enforcement. Especially given that there are still many people who oppose the legitimate government, ranging from opposition to the government's actions, opposition to ideology, and even an underground movement that wants to overthrow the legitimate government and destroy the country. With this potential, it becomes a non-military threat. As a result, demonstrations require special attention as the implications of a democratic state are clear and participants must follow the rules. The regulation is not intended to limit the right to express oneself, but rather to establish a clear goal, a coordinator who can be held accountable, a clear identity, and to prevent intruders and provocateurs from entering the field.

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATION, AND LIMITATION

This study's conclusion proves that a survey of 200 students from all over Indonesia revealed that 82.4 percent were aware of the student movement's plans for the 2022 demonstrations. They obtained this information through a variety of intermediary media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, as well as WhatsApp broadcasts and direct invitations from friends and others. According to the findings, social media is one of the most effective tools for organizing protests. In terms of national security, the demonstration of BEM SI has evolved into a non-military threat. This is because the demonstration is inappropriate. After all, between the aspirations expressed and reality, it is only a place to find narcissism on social media without paying attention to ethics and morals in the

community, and it raises social fears and anxieties. This is because, between the aspirations expressed and reality, the demonstration is only a place to find narcissism on social media without paying attention to ethics and morals in the community. It raises social fears and security threats both personally and in the community surrounding the demonstration location. As a suggestion, students are advised to evaluate the strategies used in conveying aspirations so as not to disrupt national security stability.

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Appendix

Badan Eksekutif Mahasiswa Seluruh Indonesia Demonstration (April 11, 2022) **Student Opinion Survey**

Good day/afternoon/evening.

Please contribute by taking the time to complete this survey. The purpose of this survey is to find out what students think about the Student Demonstration on April 11, 2022. Every answer is correct. As a result, we anticipate an objective response free of coercion.

I appreciate your assistance and willingness to participate.

1. In what year did you enroll as a student? (Years of attending university and studying)
 - a. 2021
 - b. 2020
 - c. 2019
 - d. 2018
 - e. 2017
2. Which island is your university located on?
 - a. Sumatera
 - b. Java
 - c. Kalimantan
 - d. Sulawesi
 - e. East Nusa Tenggara / West Nusa Tenggara
 - f. Bali
 - g. Papua
3. Do you know about the student movement for the April 11, 2022 demonstration?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. How did you find out about the demonstration's plans?
 - a. Twitter
 - b. Instagram
 - c. Facebook
 - d. WhatsApp
 - e. Invitation directly by friends/others
5. Do you intend to participate in the action, putting aside the learning that is still being accomplished online or offline?
6. If you answered YES, what are your motivations for participating in the movement?
7. If you answered NO, what are your motivations for taking part in the movement?
8. Do you agree that the demonstration on April 11, 2022 adhered to democratic principles?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Doubtful
 - c. No
9. If you answered YES, what is the basis for claiming that this is in accordance with democracy? (in relation to the answer to question no. 8 If you answered DOUBT or NO, enter -)
10. If you answered DOUBT, why do you doubt that this action is democratic? (in relation to the answer to question no. 8 If you answered Yes or NO, enter -)
11. If you answered DOUBT, why do you doubt that this action is democratic? (in relation to the answer to question no. 8 If you answered Yes or Doubt, enter -)
12. Do you know what the charges will be at the April 11, 2022 student demonstration?

- a. Yes
 - b. No
13. What are your thoughts on the aspirations expressed at the April 11, 2022 protest? (in relation to the answer to question number 12 Put a - if you answered NO)
14. Is the demonstration, in your opinion, ethical in terms of conveying aspirations?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
15. Students are agents of change working to make their country a better place. Do you believe students have the right to demonstrate on April 11, 2022?
- a. Yes
 - b. No