

Prevention of Media Inspired Copycat Crime in Malaysia:

A Legal Analysis

By

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The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

Preface

This research project has been carried out by a team which has included Muhammad Arif bin Azmi, ShireenMunirabintiSaifulMadzi, Zulhazmi bin Yusof and Muhammad Azzamudeen bin MohamadYusoff.

We thank the support we have gotten from various parties including our lecturers, colleagues and family.

Collectively we have gathered information from newspapers, online articles and even through legislation which have assisted us in this project paper.

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1.0 Introduction

Currently the media is able to flood the minds of the public in general with violent programs that not only show crimes being conducted, but also methods to conduct such crimes. The problem seen here is that certain groups of people which we shall group as the “vulnerable group” are exposed to these programs and have a tendency to mimic the acts. When the crimes are copied from other criminal acts, it is called copycat crimes. The media involved cannot be liable in any way for the violent crimes committed by these individuals. Our aim is to propose amendments to the laws present in Malaysia to prevent these copycat crimes to exist. However, there is also a need to study this subject matter in order to better understand to what extent these violent programs can or have influenced these vulnerable groups and to identify the various ways in which it can be prevented or avoided.

In Malaysia, although some scenes that have sex or obscene scenes in the programs televised are usually filtered out especially by the Film Censorship Board of Malaysia or Lembaga Penapisan Filem (LPF)¹ under the Film Censorship Act, with the existence of the internet, the unprocessed films and television programs abroad reach Malaysian shore wirelessly. We believe that there needs to be protection from mediums that can allow unsolicited television programs or film to be viewed.

Before we can commend any amendments to the law, we must first study the various problems these media can cause and to seek for the possible amendments in order to prevent them from poisoning the minds of the vulnerable groups.

1.1 Research Background

¹Kementerian Dalam Negeri. Lembaga Penapisan Filem.
<http://www.kdn.gov.my/index.php/ms/maklumat-korporat/maklumat-bahagian/lembaga-penapis-film> Retrieved on 22 February 2014.