

MH370: Why has CNN not aired its interview with Fariq?

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Oleh Athi Shankar

GEORGE TOWN: A local NGO has raised questions on why international broadcasting channel CNN has still not aired an interview with the ill-fated Beijing-bound MAS Flight MH370 co-pilot, Fariq Abdul Hamid.

The Centre for Political Awareness president Huan Cheng Guan said that CNN's Richard Quest had interviewed Fariq for the CNN Business Traveler programme, on Feb 19, just weeks before the plane's disappearance.

“A bizarre coincidence? Why has the episode not been aired yet? Is there more than what meets the eye, judging from CNN's current reporting slant?” asked Huan, in a statement released here today.

He claimed that CNN's current coverage of the missing MH370 was biased, out to deride Malaysia and to boost profits through higher ratings.

“For CNN, the pursuit for ratings and profits overrides the necessity to report facts,” charged Huan.

In recent years, he pointed out that CNN had lost out to Fox News until the mysterious disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

“It is not true journalism whereby reporters advance a story based on researched facts. Who pays the price for CNN's irresponsible and selfish reports? Malaysia, of course! Have a heart! Consider what everyone is going through,” said Huan.

He criticised CNN broadcast journalist's lack of research as not only being shameful but also insulting. He said that CNN had referred to Kuala Lumpur as being part of Indonesia in one of their broadcasts.

“Is this responsible reporting or a clueless rush job done just to fire another salvo at Malaysia?” asked Huan.

Insulting the people's intelligence

He said CNN insulted the people's intelligence by giving airtime to ludicrous or stupid theories on the disappearance of MH370.

In one broadcast (<http://goo.gl/pdXMQc>), a former transportation official had to explain to CNN's Don Lemon (who played with a toy plane in another news broadcast) that Black Holes, the Bermuda Triangle, Twilight Zone and even 'Lost' had nothing to do with the disappearance of Flight MH370.

The CNN article "So many sightings, nothing to see — search for Flight 370 objects still wanting" (<http://goo.gl/JXEI6P>) by Ashley Fantz, Huan said it was clear that CNN's motive was to mock those involved in the search for MH370.

"They repeatedly highlighted on how the search and rescue team were unable to find the objects but there is no emphasis on the difficulties involved. CNN is not rooting for news anymore.

"It's priority for ratings and profit has blinded its producers from complying with journalistic principles of reporting truthfully and responsibly," said Huan.

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