

# Indonesia threat over BlackBerry porn sparks anger

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Indonesian Muslim men check their Blackberry phones while waiting for their Iftar meal or the breaking of the fast during Ramadan in September. A threat by Indonesia to curb BlackBerry smartphone services unless the company filters pornographic sites prompted a wave of angry protests online on Sunday.

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The row is the latest in a series of controversies that [BlackBerry](#) maker [Research in Motion](#) (RIM) has found itself in, as a number of governments have complained about difficulties monitoring communications via the smartphones.

Communications and Information Technology Minister Tifatul

Sembiring has given RIM a two-week deadline to block access or risk restrictions being imposed, according to local reports.

"We have repeatedly asked them to do it and we have given them some time," Sembiring was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Globe newspaper on Saturday.

"If they keep delaying, we will shut down their operation here because they fail to comply with our laws," he added. Details of the extent of any curbs were unclear.

His statement had drawn protests on microblogging site Twitter on Sunday however.

"Can you guarantee that the flow of pornography will be reduced after BB is blocked?" user Tiffanywilliam wrote, among many other protesters.

Mainly Muslim Indonesia has been scandalised by the online release of homemade sex videos involving three popular celebrities, fuelling proposals to filter the Internet.

Sembiring, who is from a conservative Islamic party, on Sunday told his nearly 149,000 "followers" on [Twitter](#) that he was only "executing the laws".

He urged RIM to respect and obey the country's regulations and block pornographic sites.

He also asked RIM to open a representative office and service centre in Indonesia to serve the more than two million BlackBerry users in the country of 240 million people, seen as a major [emerging market](#) for information technology and [mobile communications](#).

"So far, it seems that RIM is dragging time in carrying out its commitment. As a nation, do we want to be treated in that way?" he wrote in one Tweet.

He also said: "We're not negotiating, if RIM does not comply with the rules and laws of Indonesia, enough is enough!"

Indonesia is the world's fourth most-populous country and has about 40 million Internet users, according to Internet World Stats.

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