

12 February 1998

Further information on UA 357/97 (ASA 28/13/97, 13 November 1997) and follow-up (ASA 28/15/97, 24 December 1997) - Legal Concern / Prolonged Detention without Trial / Possible Prisoners of Conscience

**MALAYSIAProfessor Lutpi Ibrahim, aged 48, university professor**  
**Fadzullah Shuib, aged 40, lecturer**  
**Syed Sulaiman bin Syed Hassan, aged 35**  
**Zainal Adam, aged 46**  
**Said Muda, aged 43**  
**Ustaz Abdul Hassan, aged 50**  
**Che Kamarulzaman Ismail, aged 44**  
**Wan Hanafi Mustapha, aged 60**

**Paharuddin Mustapha, aged 63, scrapyard dealer (released)**  
**Badrul Bahrom, aged 26 (released)**

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There is concern at reports that the above-named eight men have been ordered to be detained without charge or trial for up to two years under the Internal Security Act (ISA). They have now been sent to Kamunting Detention Centre in the state of Perak.

According to newspaper reports the group are believed to have been involved in spreading Shi'ite teachings, which the authorities claim are prejudicial to national security and Muslim unity. No further information is available concerning the reasons for their detention.

The men were arrested between 2 and 7 November 1997. Under the terms of the ISA the police can detain without warrant, for an investigation period of up to 60 days, any person suspected of threatening the national security or economic life of Malaysia. The Minister of Home Affairs may subsequently, and without reference to the courts, issue detention orders of up to two years, renewable indefinitely.

Despite repeated calls from domestic human rights groups to repeal the ISA, the government continues to assert that it is necessary in order to maintain stability in Malaysia's multi-religious society.

Two other members of the group - Paharuddin Mustapha and Badrul Bahrom - were released conditionally at the end of December 1997. They must report to the local police fortnightly and are not permitted to leave their homes after 9pm. They must also obtain police permission to travel outside their local district.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the continued detention without charge or trial of the eight above-named men under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for alleged activities prejudicial to national security and Muslim unity;
- urging that they be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or immediately and unconditionally released;
- calling on the government to allow the detainees to receive visits from their families and to ensure that they have full access to medical care;
- calling for the ISA to be amended so that it no longer allows for those who peacefully express religious or political beliefs to be arrested and imprisoned;

- calling also for the ISA to be amended so that those suspected of threatening national security have the opportunity to defend themselves before a court of law.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs  
Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad  
Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs  
Jalan Dato' Onn  
50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Faxes: + 60 3 238 3784**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs  
Dato' Tajol Rosli Ghazali  
Deputy Minister of Home Affairs  
Jalan Dato' Onn  
50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Faxes: + 60 3 230 1051**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Jalan Dato' Onn  
50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Faxes: + 60 3 256 2666**

and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 March 1998.