

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 28/15/97

24 December 1997

Further information on UA 357/97 (ASA 28/13/97, 13 November 1997) - Legal Concern / Health Concern / Possible Prolonged Detention without Trial / Possible Prisoners of Conscience

MALAYSIAP Professor 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
Paharuddin Mustapha, aged 63, scrapyard dealer
Ustaz Abdul Hassan, aged 50
Badrul Bahrom, aged 26
Che Kamarulzaman Ismail, aged 44
Wan Hanafi Mustapha, aged 60

Lutpi Ibrahim and Fadzullah Shuib, detained in November without charge or trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for alleged "activities prejudicial to national security and Muslim unity", were released on 22 December 1997 only to be re-arrested immediately afterwards.

Lutpi Ibrahim, a professor at the *Universiti Malaya* (University of Malaya) and Fadzullah Shuib, a lecturer at the *Institut Teknologi Mara* (Mara Institute of Technology) were reported on 12 December to have filed a writ of *habeas corpus* for their release. The High Court subsequently ruled that they had been unlawfully detained and ordered their immediate release. The two men had just been re-united with their families and were driving away from the court buildings when their way was blocked by police officers who arrested them once again under the ISA.

Early in December around 30 supporters, human rights activists and family members, gathered peacefully in Merdeka Square in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, to call on the authorities to allow the detainees to receive visits from their families, doctors and human rights organizations. According to an article in the *New Straits Times* the group were ordered to disperse by police officers who arrived at the scene.

All ten men named above remain in detention without charge or trial. Amnesty International has not received any information to indicate that they have used or advocated violence, or that they have committed any criminal offence, and believes they may be prisoners of conscience.

No further information is available about the health of Paharuddin Mustapha who is believed to be suffering from a severe form of diabetes.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to 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 ten above-named men in November 1997 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 6 February 1998.