

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/032/2001

9 November 2001

Further information on UA 94/01 (ASA 28/007/2001, 26 April 2001) and follow-ups (ASA 28/007/2001, 26 April 2001; ASA 28/009/2001, 9 May 2001; ASA 28/011/2001, 1 June 2001, ASA 28/013/2001, 4 June 2001 and ASA 28/015/2001 14 June 2001) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment / incommunicado detention / prisoners of conscience

MALAYSIATian Chua [m], Vice President, Parti Keadilan Nasional (PKN)
Mohd Ezam Mohd Noor [m], National Youth Chief, PKN
Haji Saari Sungip [m], PKN activist
Hishamuddin Rais [m], media columnist and social activist
Lokman Nor Adam [m], Executive Secretary, PKN Youth Wing

Released: Dr Badrul Amin Baharom [m], PKN Youth leader

After seven months detention without charge or trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA), Dr Badrul Amin Baharom has been released from Kamunting Detention Camp. However, he has been placed under restrictions which severely curtail his rights to freedom of movement, association and assembly. No reasons have been given for the decision to release him, which was reportedly made by the ISA review board of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Under the terms of the ISA restriction order, Dr Badrul Amin Baharom is reportedly confined to one district of the capital, Kuala Lumpur, must remain at home between the hours of 10pm and 6am and report to the police each week. He is also banned from holding any position with a political party and from attending public gatherings or holding political talks. Amnesty International has no further information about his current state of health.

The remaining five prisoners of conscience named above, are in Kamunting Detention Camp. They are reported to be in poor health and have been boycotting prison meals since September in protest at their segregation from other prisoners in the camp. They have also complained at the authorities' refusal to allow them to meet in private with their lawyers and relatives.

The six men were accused of acting in a manner prejudicial to national security by plotting to overthrow the Malaysian government by violent means. These claims have never been substantiated by the authorities.

Amnesty International is continuing to campaign for their release through other forms of action. For further information please see: Medical letter writing action: Ill-health of six prisoners of conscience held under the Internal Security Act (ASA 28/029/2001).

Many thanks to all those who have taken action on these cases. If possible please send a final round of appeals in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release from Kamunting Detention Camp of Dr Badrul Amin Baharom;
- expressing concern that he has been placed under restriction orders which severely curtail his rights to freedom of movement, association and assembly and urging that the orders be lifted immediately and unconditionally;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining five men named above, who have been detained solely for their peaceful political activities.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Home Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister

Dato' Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi

Ministry of Home Affairs (Menteri Dalam Negeri)

Aras 13, Blok D1

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Telegrams: Minister of Home Affairs, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Salutation: Dear Minister of Home Affairs

COPIES TO:

Chairman, Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM)

Ybhg. Tan Sri Musa Hitam

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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 21 December 2001.