

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 41/00 (ASA 28/06/00, 17 April 2000) - Arbitrary and incommunicado detention/fear of ill-treatment/prisoners of conscience

MALAYSIATian Chua, *Parti Keadilan Nasional* (PKN) Vice-President
Roslan Kassim, PKN Information Chief
Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor, PKN Youth Chief
N. Gopalankrishnan, PKN Supreme Council member
Abdul Malek Hussain

Mohd Hafiz Hashim, aged 17

At least 46 others

All those arrested in connection with the 15 April demonstration in support of imprisoned former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim were reportedly released on police bail by 24 April.

PKN Vice-President Tian Chua has been charged with illegal assembly, in connection with a peaceful demonstration in March against restrictions imposed on an opposition newspaper. The newspaper was ordered to publish only twice a month, rather than twice a week. He faces several similar charges in connection with previous demonstrations.

Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor has reportedly been charged under the Police Act with inciting others to attend an illegal demonstration. He is also due to stand trial on previous charges under the Official Secrets Act for disclosing documents about alleged government corruption to the press.

At least 15 of the group have reportedly been charged with illegal assembly and will face up to a year in prison or a fine if convicted. One other person is reported to have been charged with "insulting the police". Although 32 of the remaining detainees were reportedly released without charge, they have been ordered to report back to the police one month after their release.

On 24 April the Chairman of the newly created Malaysian Human Rights Commission, Musa Hitam, announced that the Commission would investigate all allegations of police brutality against the detainees. Lawyers representing the detainees have also called on the government to investigate a number of assault cases.

The Malaysian human rights organization SUARAM recently sent Amnesty International the following message: "We would like to thank all our friends, supporters and NGOs who had mobilised support and protests on this latest round of unjust detention".

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED FROM THE URGENT ACTION NETWORK. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.