

22 September 1999

Further information on UA 246/99 (ASA 28/09/99, 20 September 1999) - Fear of ill-treatment/ prisoners of conscience

**MALAYSIA****Arrested after opposition demonstration on 19 September:**

**Hishamudin Rais**, 48, former student activist, film director  
**Mohammad Azmin Ali**, 34, former private secretary to ex-deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim; member of *Parti Keadilan Nasional* (PKN)  
**Sivarasah Rasiah**, 42, lawyer and human rights activist,  
**Dr. Mohammad Hatta bin Ramli**, Member of *Parti Islam SeMalaysia* (PAS) Central Committee  
**Helmi bin Muhammad**, believed to be seriously injured  
**Saidin bin Nayan**, 65  
Four others, including civil servants and businessmen

**New Names (detained on 21 and 22 September):**

**Tian Chua**, vice-president PKN, human rights activist  
**Badrul Amin Bahron**, university lecturer, PKN leader  
**Zaharuddin Ayob**  
**Mohammad Ezam Mohammad Nor**, former political secretary to Anwar Ibrahim, Head of PKN Youth Wing

**At risk of detention:**

**Ruslan Kassim**, head of information, PKN  
**Mustapha Kamil Ayub** vice-chief, PKN Youth,  
**Hanafiah Man**, Perak state Youth Chief, PKN  
**Lokman Noor Adam**, Johor State Youth Chief, PKN  
**Gopalakrishnan a/l Nagapan**, Assistant Secretary for Youth, PKN  
**Abdul Malek Hussin**, former PAS Youth leader

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On 21 and 22 September 1999, Tian Chua, Badrul Amin Bahron, Zaharuddin Ayob and Mohammad Ezam Mohammad Nor were detained. Amnesty International is concerned that all those now in detention in connection with the opposition demonstration on 19 September are at risk of ill-treatment. The organization is particularly concerned by reports that Tian Chua has been assaulted by a police officer during interrogation.

The police have said they intend to arrest 15 others in connection with the demonstration. They include the five leaders of the opposition party *Parti Keadilan Nasional* (PKN), National Justice Party named above and Abdul Malek Hussin. Mustapha Kamil Ayub and Hanafiah Man were reportedly beaten by police during the demonstration.

Amnesty International acknowledges the need of authorities to investigate reports of violent incidents that took place at the public gathering on 19 September. The organization is concerned, however, that the detention of opposition leaders who participated peacefully in the public gathering may be an attempt by the authorities to intimidate members of the opposition to stop them exercising their rights to freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly. The organization considers anyone who has been detained solely on account of their peaceful participation in a public assembly to be a prisoner of conscience.

On 21 September, Sivarasa Rasiah, Dr. Mohammad Hatta, Badrul Amin Bahron and Mohammad Azmin Ali were remanded in custody for five days for further investigation. On 22 September, Tian Chua and Mohamad Ezam Nor were remanded

in custody for six days for further investigation for illegal assembly under Section 27 (5) of the Police Act. Police reportedly stated at the remand hearing that Tian Chua and Mohamed Ezam Nor were required to remain in detention in order to participate in an identification parade, and for the police to establish whether they were organizers or participants in the assembly; what the motive for the assembly was, and whether any foreign elements were involved. This is the fifth time in the last year that Tian Chua has been detained on account of his peaceful participation in a public assembly, and the fourth time that he is reported to have been beaten in detention

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

- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release any of those detained for peacefully exercising their right to engage in peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and association at an opposition demonstration on 19 September 1999;
- urging that they are not ill-treated in detention;
- expressing concern at, and calling for a full and independent investigation into, reports that Tian Chua was assaulted in detention and asking for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that, pending their release, they are given immediate access to their families, independent lawyers and medical attention;
- expressing concern at reports that demonstrators have been beaten by police, and calling for a full and independent investigation of these reports and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that the Royal Malaysia Police exercise maximum restraint in their treatment of demonstrators, and act at all times in accordance with international standards on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials;
- urging the authorities to respect the right of Malaysians to engage in peaceful assembly.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister for Home Affairs  
 Abdullah Ahmad Badawi  
 Minister of Home Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister  
 Jalan Dato' Onn  
 50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Faxes: + 60 3 230 1051**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Inspector General of Police  
 Tan Sri Norian Mai  
 Ibu Pejabat Polis Persekutan  
 Bukit Aman  
 Kuala Lumpur  
 Malaysia

**Faxes: + 603 2910707**  
**Salutation: Dear Inspector General**

**COPIES 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 3 November 1999.