

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/46/98

8 December 1998

Further information on UA 303/98 (ASA 28/42/98, 1 December 1998) - Fear of ill-treatment/possible prisoner of conscience

MALAYSIATian Chua

Human Rights activist Tian Chua was released on police bail on 5 December 1998. At a press conference on 8 December he stated he had been assaulted by police while in detention.

Tian Chua was detained for questioning on 30 November 1998, shortly after being released on bail under charges of illegal assembly. Police stated that he was being questioned on suspicion of breaching Section 4(2) of the Sedition Act, reportedly in connection with leaflets and other printed materials police had confiscated from his house. Under this legislation, possession of 'seditious' written material carries a sentence of up to 18 months' imprisonment, or a fine of up to 2,000 ringgit (c.US\$ 526). Tian Chua will be told on 19 December whether he is to be charged.

Amnesty International is concerned by reports of the ill-treatment by police of other individuals in detention, including those detained in the context of peaceful demonstrations, both during and after arrest.

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

- urging the authorities to initiate an independent investigation into reports of the ill-treatment of Tian Chua and of other individuals detained for alleged involvement in demonstrations, to make the results public, and to bring those found responsible to justice;
- reminding the government of Malaysia of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 5: 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'

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

Inspector-General of Police
Tan Sri Rahim Noor

Ibu Pejabat Polis Persekutuan
Bukit Aman
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Salutation: Dear Inspector-General

Faxes : + 60 3 291 0707

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 19 January 1999.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>