

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 28/04/98

3 March 1998

Further information on UA 357/97 (ASA 28/13/97, 13 November 1997) and follow-up (ASA 28/15/97, 24 December 1997; ASA 28/03/98, 12 February 1998) - Legal Concern / Health Concern / Possible Prolonged Detention without Trial / Possible Prisoners of Conscience

MALAYSI 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

Ustaz Abdul Hassan, aged 50

Che Kamarulzaman Ismail, aged 44

Paharuddin Mustapha, aged 63, scrapyard dealer (released)

Badrul Bahrom, aged 26 (released)

Wan Hanafi Mustapha, aged 60 (released)

Wan Hanafi Mustapha, detained in November 1997 without charge or trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for alleged "activities prejudicial to national security and Muslim unity", was released in early January 1998.

There is continued concern for the remaining seven men held in detention without charge or trial at Kamunting Detention Centre in the State of Perak. No further information is available concerning the reasons for their detention.

The men were arrested between 2 and 7 November 1997. Under the terms of the ISA the police can detain without warrant, for an investigation period of up to 60 days, any person suspected of threatening the national security or economic life of Malaysia. The Minister of Home Affairs may subsequently, and without reference to the courts, issue detention orders of up to two years, renewable indefinitely.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention without charge or trial of the seven above-named men 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 14 April 1998.