

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 289/94 (ASA 28/06/94, 3 August 1994) - and follow-up(s): ASA 28/07/94, 5 September 1994) - Arrests and harassment of Islamic followers

MALAYSIA: Khadija Aam (f), Ashaari Muhammad, (her husband) leader of the Islamic sect Al Arqam, Mubarak Muhammad their six-month old daughter, Soad Sulayman, a spokesperson for Al Arqam

**new names: Hasan Mokhtar, Supreme Council secretary
Khairrel Anuar Ujang, legal director**

On 28 October Khadija Aam, Ashaari Muhammad, Mubarak Muhammad and Soad Sulayman were all released from detention.

Their release followed Ashaari Muhammad's appearance in a television program to recant his "deviationist" religious beliefs. He declared "I repent of my own free will. There have been no threats of force for me to repent. I apologise". It was not clear if he made his statement under duress.

The leaders of Al Arqam decided to disband the organisation, which ceased to exist on 31 October.

Ashaari Muhammad and his wife are now restricted in their freedom of movement and have to request permission from the Home Affairs Ministry to travel. Two other followers, Hasan Mokhtar, Supreme Council secretary and Khairrel Anuar Ujang, legal director remain in detention.

No other action is required from the Urgent Action network at present. Thank you to all of you who sent appeals to the Malaysian authorities.