

PUBLIC

AI Index: AI 28/31/98

16 October 1998

Further information on UI 256/98 (AI 28/20/98, 23 September 1998) and follow-up (AI 28/25/98, 25 September 1998) - Legal Concern / Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

MALAYSIAN Anwar Ibrahim, Ex-deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister
S Nallakarupan, Ex-director of Public Relations Magnum Corp (possible prisoner of conscience)
Ruslan Kassim, President of Negeri Sembilan state United Malays National Organisation (UMNO)
Released Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, former UMNO Youth Chief
Released Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, President of ABIM (a Muslim youth organization)
Released Mukhtar Redhuan, Deputy President, ABIM
Released Shahaaruddin Baharuddin, Secretary General, ABIM
Released Abdul Halim Ismail, Deputy National President, ABIM
Released Kamruddin Jafaar, Chairman, Institute of Policy Research
Released Kamaruddin Mat Noor, State assemblyman for Segarak
Released Tamunif Mokhtar, Division Head of Cheras district UMNO
Released Amidi Abdul Manan, President, National Muslim Students Association
Released Prof. Dr. Siddiq Baba, Student Affairs Rector, International Islamic University
Released Ahmad Shahrinin Mohamad Sidak, Secretary General of the National Muslim Students' Association
Released Asmon Ismail, State assemblyman for Pantii
Released Dr. Zamri Abdul Kadir, Head, Lumut state UMNO Youth

The above-named 15 men, detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in September 1998, have been released. Concern remains, however, for the well-being of Ruslan Kassim, who remains in incommunicado detention at an unknown location.

On 14 October the authorities announced that former deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was no longer detained under the ISA. He has since been transferred from federal police headquarters to Sungai Bolah prison, where he is remanded in custody on 10 charges of sodomy and corruption.

Although Anwar Ibrahim was allegedly assaulted by police officers on the day of his arrest, resulting in injuries to his face, neck and arm, he was granted access to his lawyers and family on 8 and 9 October respectively and is therefore thought to be at reduced risk of ill-treatment. The authorities announced an internal police inquiry into the alleged assaults but its findings have not yet been made public.

S. Nallakarupan, arrested under the ISA in July 1998 and believed to be a possible prisoner of conscience, also remains in detention and is currently facing charges of illegally possessing ammunition. He has periodic access to lawyers and is thought also to be at reduced risk of ill-treatment.

All of the above are political associates of Anwar Ibrahim, detained solely for their non-violent political activity, expression and association under a draconian act which allows for indefinite detention, without charge or trial, of any person suspected of "threatening" national security.

For further information please refer to all documents *Malaysia: The arrest of Anwar Ibrahim and his political associates - an external briefing* (All Index 1571 28/27/98, 3 October 1998); and *Malaysia: Convictions for sodomy follow unfair trials* (All Index: 1571 28/28/98, 8 October 1998).

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

- expressing concern for the well-being of Ruslan Kassim, who continues to be held in incommunicado detention under the ISA at an unknown location;
- requesting that he be granted immediate access to independent lawyers, medical personnel and members of his family;
- urging that Ruslan Kassim, Anwar Ibrahim and S. Nallakarupan are not ill-treated while in detention;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Anwar Ibrahim and Ruslan Kassim, who have been detained solely for their non-violent political activity, expression and association;
- calling for a full, independent investigation into the reported ill-treatment of Anwar Ibrahim, for the findings to be made public promptly, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for a prompt and fair trial of possible prisoner of conscience S. Nallakarupan.

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
Telegrams: Prime Minister, 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

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 27 November 1998.