

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/04/99

29 April 1999

Further information on UA 78/99 (ASA 28/03/99, 14 April 1999) - Fear of ill-treatment

**MALAYSIA**Ahmad Zaidi bin Mohamad Aris

Ahmad bin Awang

Tian Chua, vice-chair of the *Parti Keadilan Nasional*, social activist

Abdul Malek Hussin, former president of *Islam Se Malaysia Youth*

Ikhwan Abdul Jabar

Mohamed Razali bin Nordin

At least 18 others

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All 24 people listed above were released on bail on 21 April 1999. They were arrested during demonstrations on 14 April in support of jailed former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim.

They have been charged with offences relating to illegal assembly, and, if convicted, face one to five years' imprisonment and fines ranging from US\$526 to \$2,630. Tian Chua and Abdul Malik Hussin were also charged with obstructing police. Tian Chua had sat in front of a police truck that had just sprayed demonstrators with water cannon during the demonstration. They will go on trial in July. A number of those detained required hospital treatment for injuries caused by police beatings at the time of arrest.

Students and teachers involved in the protests may also face disciplinary proceedings by university and school authorities, ranging from suspension and the removal of student scholarships to expulsion for students, and demotion or sacking for teachers.

If any of the above demonstrators are convicted solely on account of their peaceful involvement in a demonstration, Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International believes that no demonstrator should be penalized for their non-violent exercise of the right to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

**No further action is required by the Urgent Action network at this stage. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**