

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/47/98

11 December 1998

Further information on UA 295/98 (ASA 28/40/98, 16 November 1998) and follow-up (ASA 28/43/98, 1 December 1998) - Fear of ill-treatment/prisoners of conscience/possible prisoners of conscience

MALAYSIALokman Noor bin Haji Adam, member of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), Johore division
Mohamad Khair Mohamad Noor, 38, UMNO member
Abdullah Rashid bin Ahmad, UMNO member
Zulkifli Othman

New names:Fadhillah bin Abu Bakr
Mohamed Nasir bin Hussein
Monashofian Zulkairnan, 36, businessman

Three more people have been detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) and are at risk of ill-treatment in detention.

Fadhillah bin Abu Bakr was detained by plainclothes police on 22 November 1998. He had just been released from detention in connection with demonstrations in central Kuala Lumpur on the weekend of 15-16 November. Monashofian Zulkairnan was similarly detained outside the municipal magistrate's court on 4 December, shortly after his release from six days' detention in police custody, where he had been held in connection with a pro-reform demonstration on 28 November.

Mohamed Nasir bin Hussein was detained on 26 November at a supermarket in Kuala Lumpur, reportedly for his alleged association with the *Reformasi* movement, a movement calling for political and social reform in Malaysia.

The other four men named above remain in custody.

There have been at least 25 arrests under the ISA since September, linked to the arrest of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the pro-reform demonstrations that have followed it. Anwar Ibrahim was allegedly beaten while detained under the ISA on 20 September, and the results of an investigation into his beating have not yet been made public. His speech writer, Dr. Munawar Anees, and other detainees, have reported ill-treatment and inadequate access to medical treatment. Others are known to have been held incommunicado, beaten, and denied sleep. (See *Malaysia: The Arrest of Anwar Ibrahim and his Political Associates - an Update* (AI Index ASA 28/39/98, 9 November 1998), Urgent Actions 271/98, 256/98, and updates.)

The ISA allows 60 days' detention without charge for acting 'in a manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia. The Minister of Home Affairs may authorize further detention for up to two years at a time, without judicial review or the filing of formal charges. The ISA is increasingly used to curb freedom of expression and association in Malaysia, and Amnesty International is concerned that it fails to meet internationally recognized standards on detention and fair trial. Despite repeated calls from Malaysian human rights groups for its repeal, the government states that the ISA is needed to maintain political, religious and ethnic stability.

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

- expressing concern at the detention of Monashofian Zulkairnan, Fadhillah bin Abu Bakr and Mohamed Nasir bin Hussein under the ISA, and calling for them either to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence, or released immediately;
- urging that they are not ill-treated in detention;
- urging that, pending their release from detention, they are granted immediate access to lawyers, relatives and medical personnel;
- reminding the government of Malaysia of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 20: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.'

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

Inspector General of Police
Tan Sri Rahim Noor
Ibu Pejabat Polis Persekutan
Bukit Aman
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Faxes: + 603 2910707

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 22 January 1999.

***"Everyone has the right to freedom of
peaceful assembly and association."***

Article 20, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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