

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/019/2001

9 July 2001

Further information on UA 166/01 (ASA 28/018/2001, 5 July 2001) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment / incommunicado detention / prisoners of conscience

MALAYSIA

Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin, student, aged 24

New name: Mohamad Fuad Mohd Ikhwan, student, aged 22

Malaysian police arrested another student leader under the Internal Security Act (ISA) on 6 July. Mohamad Fuad Mohd Ikhwan, President of the Student Representative Council of the *Universiti Malaya*, was arrested in the capital, Kuala Lumpur. He is held incommunicado, without access to family or lawyers, and is at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The police reportedly told his family that he had been arrested under Section 73(1) of the ISA, which allows police to detain anyone "acting or about to act in any manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia".

Fears are mounting that a police crackdown is underway on students who have campaigned for political reform and abolition of the ISA. Police have reportedly raided a number of student residences in the past few days. On 8 July Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad repeated warnings to students that they would face expulsion from their universities if they took part in "anti-government activities". Defending the use of the ISA, he reportedly stated that student activities were becoming bolder and at times threatening national security.

The arrests of the two students have been condemned by the Malaysian Bar Council, local student organizations and many other non-governmental organizations, all of whom have repeated their calls for the ISA to be repealed.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin and Mohamad Fuad Mohd Ikhwan, who have been detained solely for their peaceful political activities;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that they will not be subjected to physical or psychological torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the authorities to allow them immediate and regular access to lawyers, families and independent medical attention;
- urging that the ISA be repealed or amended, so that it no longer allows for the detention without trial of those exercising their right to peaceful freedom of expression or assembly;
- urging the authorities not to penalize students for exercising their right to engage in peaceful political activity.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Home Affairs & Deputy Prime Minister

Dato' Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi

Ministry of Home Affairs (Menteri Dalam Negeri)

Aras 13, Blok D1

Parcel D, Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan

65202 Putrajaya, Selangor

Malaysia

Fax: + 60 3 8886 8014

E-mail: tpm@smpke.jpm.my

Telegram: Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home affairs, Selangor, Malaysia

Salutation: Dear Minister of Home Affairs

Inspector General of Police

Tan Sri Norian Mai

Ketua Polis Negara
Ibupejabat Polis Diraja Malaysia
Bukit Aman
50502 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Fax: + 60 3 22731326 (please note this number is not always available)

Telegram: Inspector General of Police, Ketua Polis Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Salutation: Dear Inspector General of Police

COPIES TO:

Chairman, Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM)

Ybhg. Tan Sri Musa Hitam
Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia
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Menara Tun Razak
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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 20 August 2001.