

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 28/25/98

25 September 1998

Further information on UA 256/98 (28/20/98, 23 September 1998) - Legal Concern / Prisoners of conscience and new concern: Fear of ill-treatment

**MALAYSIA**Anwar Ibrahim, Ex-deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister  
S. Nallakarupan, Ex-director of Public Relations Magnum  
Ruslan Kassim, President of Negri Sembilan state UMNO Youth  
Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) Youth Chief  
Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, President of ABIM (a Muslim youth organization)  
Mukhtar Redhuan, Deputy President, ABIM  
Shaharuddin Baharuddin, Secretary General, ABIM  
Abdul Halim Ismail, Deputy National President, ABIM  
Kamarudin Jafaar, Chairman, Institute for Policy Research  
Kamaruddin Mat Noor, State assemblyman  
Tamunif Mokhtar, Division Head of Cheras state UMNO  
Amidi Abdul Manan, President, National Muslim Students Association  
Prof. Dr. Siddiq Baba, Student Affairs Rector, International Islamic University

**New Names:** Ahmad Shabrinin Mohamad Sidek, Secretary General of the National Muslim Student's Association  
Asmon Ismail, State assemblyman for Panti  
Dr. Zamri Abdul Kadir, Head, Lumut state UMNO Youth

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Amnesty International fears that those named above, all currently being held in incommunicado detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA) could be at risk of ill-treatment. The whereabouts of some remain unknown.

Previous ISA detainees are known to have been placed in conditions of aggravated mental and physical distress induced by sleep deprivation, threats and slaps and by being forced to stand for prolonged periods under excessively cold air-conditioners.

The organization has also learned of the incommunicado detention under the ISA of the following people: Ahmad Shabrinin Mohamad Sidek, Asmon Ismail and Dr. Zamri Abdul Kadir.

Please note that Anwar associate S. Nallakarupan, currently facing charges of illegally possessing ammunition, is considered a possible prisoner of conscience.

On 23 September 1998 a restriction order, under the ISA, was issued against the wife of Anwar Ibrahim, Dr. Wan Azizah, prohibiting her from speaking at public rallies or attending "political" gatherings at home. If Wan Azizah breaks the terms of the restriction orders she faces detention without trial.

Police have released on bail at least 120 demonstrators arrested at rallies on 20 and 21 September following Anwar Ibrahim's detention. However, in spite of a nationwide ban on all further "pro-reform" rallies, demonstrations in support of Anwar continued on 25 September, when police entered the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur to disperse a crowd expressing support for Anwar.

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

- urging that the 15 detainees, held in incommunicado detention at an unknown location, are not ill-treated;
- urging the government to respect the right of Malaysians to peaceful assembly and for the police to exercise maximum restraint in their treatment of demonstrators.

**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 4 November 1998.