

URGENT ACTION

SIX MALAYSIAN ACTIVISTS RELEASED

Six Malaysian activists arrested in Penang on 25 June have now been released. They were held without charge for over a month under an Emergency Public Order and Prevention of Crime Ordinance (EO), which allows for indefinite detention.

Socialist Party MP Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj and five party officers were released on 29 July from Jinjang police station, in Kuala Lumpur. Their release follows daily protests by local NGOs and pressure from international organisations, including Amnesty International, against their arbitrary detention.

The six were among 30 activists arrested in Penang on 25 June while travelling to an event connected to electoral reform. Police remanded them on suspicion of "waging of war against the King". The other 24 were released on 4 July.

On 9 July police arrested 1,667 protestors at a peaceful Bersih 2.0 rally in Kuala Lumpur. All were released without charge later that night, but many had visible injuries.

An estimated 2,000 people are currently detained without trial in Malaysia under the Emergency Ordinance alone. The preventive detention law was originally promulgated under the State of Emergency in Malaysia in 1969 to restore the peace and order which was disturbed by racial riots. However, in practice, the EO has been used mainly to deal with suspected criminals who are regarded as difficult to bring to justice by the ordinary process of law, either due to lack of evidence or the inability of the prosecution to find witnesses who are willing to give testimony.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required

This is the fourth update of UA 210/2011. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA28/005/2011/en>, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA28/004/2011/en>, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA28/003/2011/en>

Names and genders:

Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj, Socialist Party (PSM) MP for Sungai Siput (m)

M Saraswathy, PSM national deputy chairman (f)

Choo Chon Kai, central committee member (m)

M Sugumaran, central committee member (m)

A Letchumanan, Sungai Siput branch secretary (m)

R Sarathbabu, national youth chief (m)

Further information on UA: 210/11 Index: ASA 28/006/2011 Issue Date: 29 July 2011

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