

**September 22, 2002**

**LENGTH:** 393 words

**HEADLINE:** MNP FOUNDER MEMBER

**BYLINE:** Compiled by NSTP Research & Information Services

**BODY:**

ABDUL Rashid Maidin was born in Kampung Gunung Mesah, Gopeng, Perak, in 1916.

He went to Malay school in Gunung Panjang, Gopeng, till Standard Five and then to an English school in the Cameron Highlands for Standards Six and Seven.

He later became a mechanic in a tin mine in Tanjong Tualang, Perak. He was a founder member of the Malay Nationalist Party (MNP), joining the Malaysian Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) in 1943.

He joined the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) and was stationed in Ipoh with a propaganda unit after the end of WWII.

He became a Central Committee Member and was given wide powers and authority. At the start of the Emergency, he was detained under the Emergency Regulations on August 25, 1949, at Sungai Manik, Perak, while attempting to contact other CPM members.

He was taken to Taiping Prison and later to Pulau Jerejak detention camp in Penang, before being transferred to Tanjong Bruas, Malacca, in February 1950.

He escaped from the Tanjong Bruas detention camp on March 18, 1951. During the Emergency, he was actively involved in Communist activities, fighting Government security forces in the CPM's 10th Regiment.

There was a price on his head - RM70,000 dead or alive, which was later reduced to RM20,000. Abdul Rashid remained in Malacca for a short period after his escape and went by a jungle route to Pahang.

He left Pahang in 1953, for South Thailand where he remained until December 28, 1955, when he accompanied Chin Peng for peace talks with Prime Minister **Tunku Abdul Rahman** at Baling, Kedah.

In the same year, he was elected to the CPM Central Committee. Abdul Rashid was the leader of the special forces of the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) operating in the Malaysian-Thai border area from 1961 to 1972.

As late as 1975, he claimed that Kuala Lumpur would eventually fall to the Communists. After the surrender of CPM chairman Musa Ahmad, the Government again called Abdul Rashid and Abdullah C.D.

to give up their futile struggle and return to society.

He was one of the signatories to the peace accord, signed on December 2, 1989, that ended the CPM's 41-year armed struggle. He now resides in a remote area of Yala, Thailand, with his wife Salamah Abdullah, where he is Ketua Kampung of a special settlement in which about 100 ex-Communists live and farm.

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