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Appeal for release of two academicians

PENANG, Thurs. - The Malaysian Academic Movement today appealed to Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to release two academicians, detained under the Internal Security Act since last month.

In making the call, MOVE president Dr Wan Abdul Manan Wan Muda said Professor Lutpi Ibrahim of Universiti Malaya and Fadzlullah Shuib from Institut Teknologi Mara should be released as there was no basis for their detention.

"It is a violation of their human rights and basic freedom accorded to citizens of this country as enshrined in the Malaysian Constitution, namely Article 10 which deals with the freedom to speak, assemble and form an association, and Article 11 which deals with freedom of religion."

Lutpi and Fadzlullah were arrested on Nov 2 and 7 respectively under the ISA for conduct detrimental to national security and religion because they allegedly practise Shi'ite Islam.

Speaking at a Press conference today, Wan Abdul Manan, who is also Universiti Sains Malaysia Academic and Administrative Staff Association (PKAPUSM) president, said the association joins MOVE in making the appeal.

Wan Abdul Manan said if Lutpi and Fadzlullah have committed any offence, they should be charged in open court.

Wan Abdul Manan said MOVE and PKAPUSM would support the habeas corpus applications of the two detainees.

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