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ISA-Karpal

FRESH APPLICATION FILED FOR RELEASE OF ACADEMICIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- A fresh application for a writ of habeas corpus has been filed to obtain the release of two academicians rearrested after being released from detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

Their counsel Karpal Singh, who filed the application at the High Court here today, also appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to immediately order the release of Universiti Malaya professor Lutpi Ibrahim and Institut Teknologi Mara lecturer Fadzlullah Shuib.

The families of the two academicians were "deeply hurt and disappointed" by the rearrest and hoped the Prime Minister would intercede to put matters right, Karpal said in a statement.

An affidavit to support the application was also filed by Lutpi's wife, Hafsah Hussin. She said among others that the rearrest of the two men and their detention was contempt of court as they had already been freed by the High Court.

Lutpi and Fadzlullah were rearrested minutes after they left the court at Jalan Raja here on Monday following their release.

Last Saturday, the High Court ordered the two men to be brought to court on Monday to enable their release after ruling that their detention under the ISA was invalid.

They were detained on Nov 7 for alleged involvement in propagating the teachings of Shiite (an Islamic sect) in the country, deemed by the government as prejudicial to national security and Muslim unity.

Karpal in his statement also referred to remarks by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor, who yesterday reportedly described the court decision to free the two men as "astounding".

Rahim said however the decision had to be rejected to ensure the firmness of the nation's laws.

Karpal said: "You cannot say you respect a court decision and at the same time order rearrest in defiance of the judicial order sanctioning release of a detainee.

"The IGP is not a legally qualified person and should seek legal advice before making inconsistent statements." --BERNAMA

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