

05/02/1997

14 Al-Arqam followers end Kamunting detention

Kamarul Yunus

FOURTEEN followers of the banned Al-Arqam group will end their detention at the Kamunting detention centre today.

Announcing this, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said except for a government senior officer, the remaining 13 detainees will be released with condition.

"Ahmad Salim Omar, a deputy director attached with the Land and Cooperative Ministry will be granted unconditional release, while the other 13 detainees will be placed under restricted residence," he told reporters after attending the Ministry's breaking of fast in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the Home Minister, attended the breaking of fast.

Megat Junid said the decision to release the 14 Al-Arqam members was made after discussions with the relevant authorities and the matter referred to the Prime Minister.

The 14 former Al-Arqam members had been detained at Kamunting for six months. They were detained after four members of the group, who were earlier detained and released under restriction order, tried to revive the movement.

The Al-Arqam was banned on August 25 1994 for deviating from the Islamic principles practised in the country.

Ten leaders of the group, including Asaari, were released from detention on restriction order under the Internal Security Act 1960. The restriction order imposed on them remains.

(END)