

04 APR 1997
Demo-Cricket
POLICE DETAIN 49 AT ANTI-ISRAEL DEMO

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- Police today detained 49 men, aged between 20 and 48, for demonstrating against an Israeli team taking part in a cricket tournament here.

They were arrested at a mosque near Universiti Malaya's main gate after the afternoon Friday prayer.

Kuala Lumpur CPO Datuk Ismail Che Rus said about 50 more demonstrators were still holed up in the mosque defying police orders to surrender.

Police cordoned off the mosque since 2pm.

He said policemen were deployed there earlier after authorities received information of an impending demonstration near the university.

About 500 demonstrators comprising university students and opposition PAS members assembled near the university gate soon after Muslims finished the Friday prayer at the mosque.

He said police had to release smoke bombs before moving in to detain the demonstrators but the mob became wild and started hurling stones and sticks at them.

"Those detained are in the Brickfields Police station and will be charged under Section 22 of the Police Act," Ismail told reporters at a news conference at Pantai Police station.

Last week, hundreds of PAS members and supporters demonstrating against the Israeli cricketers held a marching protest from Dataran Merdeka to the Prime Minister's Department but no one was detained.

Ismail had earlier issued two statements warning the public that the police would take action against the demonstrators if they staged another illegal assembly.

The Israeli team, taking part in the International Cricket Council Trophy championship played their last inning against Argentina at Victoria Insitution this afternoon.

In Kota Baharu today, when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir declared open the KUB Malysia Bhd textile factory during his one-day visit there, he explained the Federal Government's rationale for allowing the Israeli team to take part in the tournament.

He said the international media, which is controlled by the West and the Jews, always run down Muslim countries to the extent of conjuring an ugly image of Muslims.

"This is our chance to prove that Muslims in Malaysia are prepared to show western countries that the impression created about us is not true," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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