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Police-Vigil

SWIFT ACTION BY POLICE AVERT UNRULY INCIDENT AT INDON EMBASSY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Swift action by police averted what could turn out to be an unruly incident when a group of people held a "candle light vigil" to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Dili Massacre in front of the Indonesian Embassy here exchanged words with some embassy staff here tonight.

The verbal exchanges ensued when the group from Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram), a non-governmental organisation, strung up a banner bearing the words in support of Kamal Bamadhaj, who was brutally murdered by the Indonesian army in 1991.

The banner apparently covered the embassy's name.

Unhappy with the manner it was put up, five embassy staff came out of the embassy to protest to the group who in turned defended their action.

When a heated argument broke out, a three-member police team sent earlier in a patrol car to monitor the peaceful gathering as well as several plaincloth policemen, intervened.

The policemen ordered the embassy staff to get back into the embassy building while the group were told to disperse quietly or face action.

A spokesman for the group, who only identified himself as Jimmy, later distributed leaflets and a press statement to the media.

Among others, the group called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to use the 30th anniversary of Asean this year to initiate a just and peaceful settlement for East Timor.

On Nov 12, 1991, Indonesian troops opened fire at a peaceful demonstration at the Santa Cruz Cemetery in Dili, capital of East Timor, killing 271 people while some 200 more were reported missing.

-- BERNAMA
ZAI/RA TS