

Protesters were provoked, says Wan Azizah

5.27.10.98
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KUALA LUMPUR: Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail has said that protesters who clashed with the police over the weekend were provoked by "agent provocateurs."

"Unfortunately, things turned ugly when they were provoked by some agent provocateurs whose purpose was to discredit the reform movement," she told reporters at her home.

Dr Wan Azizah said neither she nor her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim condoned the weekend clashes.

"Neither I nor Anwar Ibrahim has ever directed, asked or urged the people to hold any kind of illegal gathering, what more to instruct the people to act violently by destroying public property," she said.

"This is a total contradiction to what we stand for."

According to *Reuters*, Dr Wan Azizah said the series of rallies and demonstrations since Anwar's arrest were "genuine and sincere expressions of frustration by the people towards the Government of (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad, especially in dealing with Anwar Ibrahim's case."

The violent clash in Kampung Baru on Saturday was a "manifestation of the people's anger towards Dr Mahathir which could not be contained any further," she said.