

ANWAR

8.21.9.98
**Former DPM
arrested over
riots by
his supporters**

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was arrested at his house here following several cases of rioting and public disorder caused by his supporters here yesterday.

A police special action unit stormed the house of the sacked deputy prime minister and finance minister in Jalan Setiamurni 1 while he was giving a press conference at 8.55pm.

Police also arrested Negri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim and 10 others. More are expected to be picked up, especially ringleaders of various illegal assemblies.

"These arrests have nothing to do with police investigations into the book (*50 Dahlil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Menjadi PM*)," City police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Kamaruddin Mohamed Ali said.

"Police had to take action to restore order. The situation is now under control and has returned to normal," he added.

Police moved in on Anwar's house after several incidents of unrest, including a crowd of 2,000 throwing stones at Sri Perdana, the Prime Minister's official residence, nearby.

The crowd was part of a larger gathering which had congregated at Masjid Negara and Dataran Merdeka for an Anwar rally at 5pm.

Riot police had to use water cannons and fire tear gas to disperse the crowd which had turned unruly by the time it reached Sri Perdana.

As the special team stormed Anwar's house, police General Operational Force personnel in about 10 trucks blocked entry to the residence where an estimated 1,000 apparent supporters had gathered.

At 9.30pm, Ruslan was taken away in a police vehicle.

Half an hour later, Anwar was taken away in an unmarked van together with wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and five out of his six children. The van was escorted by po-

lice cars in the front and back.

The crowd started shouting "*Allahuakhbar* (God is Great)" and "*Reformasi* (Reformation)" as the van left the compound.

Anwar's lawyer Christopher Fernando told reporters the former Umno deputy president being taken to Bukit Aman to be indicted on charges of sexual indecency.

However, this was later denied by DCP Kamaruddin, who said Anwar was arrested for offences, including illegal assembly,

rioting, vandalism, using criminal force and causing public disorder.

Anwar was sacked from the Government on Sept 2. He was expelled from Umno the following day.

Since then, he has held several rallies throughout the country protesting against his removal, claiming that there was a "high-level conspiracy" against him.

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Illegal rally began at National Mosque

● FROM PAGE ONE

He also started a reformation movement which he claimed was to bring about change and justice in the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said that he sacked Anwar

because of "low morals."

Earlier yesterday, after hearing Anwar's renewed call at the National Mosque for Dr Mahathir to resign, his supporters marched to Dataran Merdeka, brushing aside police barricades to flood into the square.

Anwar later reportedly

left on a motorcycle, leaving behind his wife, saying he feared the rally was getting too big.

Dr Wan Azizah read out a 24-point declaration which included calls for reforms and Dr Mahathir's resignation.

The rally began at the Na-

tional Mosque, apparently without a police permit.

At the mosque, Anwar told the estimated 35,000 people to march to Dataran Merdeka.

He also told them to march to Sri Perdana and the National Sports Complex to protest.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

9.25am — Foreign journalists arrive at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's house in Bukit Damansara.

10.10am — Foreign journalists start interviewing Anwar.

11.20am — While Anwar talks to journalists, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Anwar's wife, speaks to local reporters and questions the court's wisdom in sentencing Anwar's adopted brother Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja and his aide Dr Munawar Aness.

12.30pm — United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Param Cumarasamy accompanied by JUST chief Dr Chandra Muzaffar meet Anwar.

1.15pm — Anwar aides distribute fliers and pamphlets.

2.05pm — Dr Chandra and Param leave.

3.00pm — Anwar prepares to leave for the National Mosque.

3.15pm — His aides are seen mobilising equipment including hailers, boxes of pamphlets and fliers into a car.

4.40pm — Anwar and wife arrive at the National Mosque.

5.00pm — Anwar addresses the 30,000-odd crowd, using a hailer. He repeatedly urges Dr Mahathir to resign. He also criticises the local media. Anwar also urges his listeners to march to Dataran Merdeka.

6.00pm — The crowd, many wearing headbands with the word *reformasi*, begin converging at Dataran Merdeka. They also occupy a stage erected for a cultural show.

6.40pm — Anwar then leads the crowd to Jalan Raja Laut where they continue shouting *reformasi*. Anwar then reportedly leaves on a motorcycle, saying that he fears that the crowd is getting too big.

7.30pm — The supporters reach PWTC and several glass panels are reportedly broken. They then march to Sri Perdana, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

8.50pm — About 2,000 people arrive at the entrance of Sri Perdana. They demand Dr Mahathir's resignation. Some of the protesters throw empty plastic bottles and stones at FRU personnel. Police use tear gas and water cannon to disperse them after several warnings.

8.55pm — Police storm Anwar's house at Bukit Damansara while he is holding a press conference.

9.30pm — Negri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kasim is arrested and taken away in a vehicle.

10.00pm — Anwar is arrested and taken to Bukit Aman in a white Perodua Rusa. Wan Azizah and five of their children follow.

10.30pm — Anwar's spokesman says Anwar is being held at Bukit Aman and was not allowed to see his lawyers.

10.55pm — Anwar's five children return from Bukit Aman.

11.00pm — The crowd supporting Anwar continues to linger around his residence and at irregular intervals shout *reformasi* and *Alkahuakbar*.

11.10pm — Helicopters circle Anwar's house.

11.25pm — More foreign pressmen arrive.

11.30pm — Wan Azizah and one of Anwar's lawyers, Suleiman Abdullah, returns from Bukit Aman. She addresses the gathering.

12.00am — Supporters still keep coming while some of the earlier crowd start leaving.