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Anwar arrested and to be charged today (HL)

Ashraf Abdullah; Tony Emmanuel; Marhalim Abas; Adrian David  
KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was arrested at his house in Damansara tonight and is expected to be charged in court tomorrow.

Also detained was Negri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim who was with him. Ruslan was the first to be taken away by the police. They were taken to police headquarters in Bukit Aman.

City police chief Datuk Kamaruddin Ali said Anwar was arrested at 10pm at No. 8, Jalan Setia Murni, Damansara.

He said among the reasons for Anwar's arrest were disruption of public order, illegal assembly and breaking the peace.

Speaking at a Press conference at Bukit Aman tonight, Kamaruddin said there was no resistance when Anwar was arrested.

He said: "In fact, he co-operated with the police. He will be produced before the magistrate tomorrow morning."

But one of his lawyers, Pawanche Merican, told reporters that Anwar was expected to be charged under Section 377D of the Penal Code.

The Section states: "Any person who, in public or private, commits, or abets the commission of, or procures or attempts to procure the commission by any person of, any act of gross indecency with another person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years".

Speaking at Bukit Aman, Kamaruddin said the situation was under control and life in the city was normal.

Pawanche said Anwar was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and all his children to Bukit Aman. He was at first taken away in an unmarked police van and later transferred to a police Perodua Kancil.

At about 10.45pm, one of Anwar's brothers, Rosli, who had apparently accompanied the former to Bukit Aman, returned to the house with the children. Dr Azizah returned home at about 11.20pm accompanied by lawyer Sulaiman Abdullah.

Other than Sulaiman, lawyers Zainur Zakaria and Christopher Fernando also accompanied him to Bukit Aman.

On Saturday, two of Anwar's friends were sentenced to six months' jail each by the Sessions Court after pleading guilty to charges of committing an act of gross indecency by allowing Anwar to sodomise them.

Dr Munawar Ahmad Anees, 51, a consultant with Realmild Sdn Bhd, and Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, 37, who were separately charged, admitted guilt.

Anwar was sacked from the Cabinet on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day. On Sept 8, Dr Mahathir said that Anwar was expelled on the grounds of moral misconduct.

Anwar was holding a Press conference when policemen arrived. The highest ranking officer was Assistant Commissioner Koh Hong Sun from the Brickfields police station.

Several lawyers came to the house soon afterward and were allowed in. About 100 Anwar supporters were in the house while another 200 were outside. Federal Reserve Unit members were at the scene to control the crowd.

Anwar's father, Datuk Ibrahim Abdul Rahman, was also inside the house. Anwar had asked and was given permission to change to fresh clothes before being led away.

This evening, Anwar held two illegal assemblies - one at the National Mosque and the other at Dataran Merdeka. He spoke to the crowd at the mosque and taunted policemen before marching to the Dataran.

He also addressed the crowd at the Dataran. Anwar took advantage of the weekend crowd and events lined up at the Dataran in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games to hold the gatherings.

Later, two groups of his supporters left the Dataran and made their way to Menara Datuk Onn where the Umno headquarters is located. They then marched towards the Prime Minister's residence through Jalan Mahameru.

By 8.45pm, they had gathered about one kilometre away from the road leading to Dr Mahathir's house. Many were carrying placards and shouting. As the crowd became unruly, Federal Reserve Unit members were forced to fire tear gas to disperse them.

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