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Anwar's former political secretary in Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's former political secretary Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor, who issued two statements condemning the Prime Minister and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor on the alleged assault on the former Deputy Prime Minister, is in Indonesia.

Contacted by telephone, Ezam said he was in Jakarta to meet some Indonesian political leaders and friends.

Asked about his exact whereabouts, he said: "I am on the move."

He denied that he had left the country for fear of being arrested, but sources said he had left the country soon after Anwar's arrest.

In a Press statement issued from Jakarta today, Ezam claimed that the assault on Anwar while in detention proved that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's regime "was capable of carrying out tyranny and ill-treatment on whomever, especially the weak".

Anwar was detained under the Internal Security Act for inciting violence during a rally at Dataran Merdeka on Sept 20.

He has since been charged with five counts of corrupt practices and five counts of having unnatural sex.

Ezam, who is deputy head of the Petaling Jaya Selatan Umno division, also claimed that Dr Mahathir had lost the support of Umno members. His other Press statement was issued on Sept 30.

Petaling Jaya Selatan Umno division's secretary Zon Abdul Hamid when contacted, said its head Datuk Kapt (R) Zahar Hashim was in Russia on a business trip.

Ezam, 30, an Economics graduate from the International Islamic University, was appointed political secretary to Anwar last year.

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