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## Group calls for inquiry into assault allegations

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Several individuals and non-governmental organisations today called on the Government to carry out an "immediate and transparent" inquiry into the alleged assault on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

They also urged the Government to ensure that Anwar received a fair and just trial "in accordance with the highest standard of judicial conduct".

Among those making the call are Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor, Dr Chandra Muzaffar, president of the International Movement for a Just World, Opposition leader and DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, and Bar Council vice-president R.R. Chelvarajah.

Chandra said in a statement that there should also be a full and honest explanation from the Inspector-General of Police, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, and the Home Affairs Minister on the matter.

"Anwar should also be given a fair hearing so that the world will know the whole truth behind the assault," Chandra said.

He also proposed that a team of doctors check on Anwar's physical condition at regular intervals and report to the public on his well-being, and to allow Anwar's lawyers and wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, their children and family members to visit him regularly.

Lim said Malaysians should themselves speak up to demand the fullest and impartial inquiry into the allegations of assault and for those involved to be brought to justice.

He also referred to a medical report by Datuk Dr Ahmad Shukri Mohamad, an eye specialist, whom he (Lim) said was appointed by Anwar's family to examine Anwar.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad today held a special Press conference to announce that an independent police team would investigate the allegations and said that police brutality would not be tolerated.

In calling for the inquiry into the assault, Bar Council's Chelvarajah said this was to ensure that Anwar was protected from "any further assault or any physical threat".

"It appears that the recent statement of the authorities that Datuk Seri Anwar was safe and sound was not altogether correct.

"The Bar Council calls upon the Home Affairs Minister to bring the perpetrators of the assault to be charged under the Penal Code for causing grievous hurt," said Chelvarajah.

Fadzil, issuing a statement in his capacity as chairman of the newly-formed Malaysian People's Justice Movement (Gerak), called for the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the allegations.

He added that Anwar's family and NGOs "defending justice" should be given the opportunity to attend his trial.

Anwar's wife, their daughters, Anwar's father and father-in-law had been attending the court proceedings in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya over the last two days.

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