

26 OCT 1998

Residents-Protest

KAMPUNG BARU RESIDENTS PROTEST AGAINST DEMONSTRATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- About 50 Kampung Baru residents held a peaceful demonstration here today to protest the irresponsible actions of supporters of the reform movement in the area on Saturday.

Their spokesman, Idris Zakaria, said their unruly actions had turned violent and caused fear among members of the public.

"We represent all the Kampung Baru in objecting strongly to the demonstration by the reform group in our village, especially at Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru," Idris, 53, a businessman, told a news conference, here.

He said business in the area had been affected.

"The mosque as a house of worship should not be turned into a platform for violence because it goes against the sacred values of Islam," he said.

He reminded the organisers that the Kampung Baru residents had run out of patience and if the safety of their families and properties was compromised they might retaliate.

He called on the police to act more firmly should there be a recurrence of the incident.

The demonstration on Saturday night had turned violent resulting in two policemen being injured.

The residents have put up a huge banner warning the demonstrators to leave their village and mosque alone and saying that they want to live in peace.

They have also expressed full support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

YBK JK