

20 SEP 1998

Anwar-Police

POLICE CONFIRM ANWAR'S ARREST

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Police confirmed at 11.10 tonight that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was arrested at his house for alleged involvement in several criminal offences.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Kamarudin Ali told Bernama that Anwar was arrested at 10pm at his residence at No 8, Jalan Setiamurni 1, Bukit Damansara, here.

He said Anwar is being detained to help in police investigations for alleged involvement in several criminal offences.

He also said there were several incidents of public disturbance, illegal assembly, criminal use of force and rioting at several locations in the federal capital this evening.

" These incidents were sparked off by supporters of Datuk Seri Anwar," he said.

Kamarudin also confirmed the arrest of the Negeri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim in connection with this evening's public disturbances in the city.

" Police have taken action to restore order and the situation is under control and has returned to normal," he said.

Anwar, who was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2, this evening held another of his so-called reform movement gathering at Masjid Negara (National Mosque), here.

He addressed the gathering at the mosque grounds and later led the crowd to the Merdeka Square amid shouts of "reformasi" (reform) and "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great).

A section of the crowd proceeded to Umno headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre, causing slight damage to the building.

From there, they marched to Sri Perdana, the official residence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Jalan Damansara.

However, they were dispersed by anti-riot police using water cannons and tear gas.

Police diverted traffic from the area, causing congestions along several roads.

Kamarudin said Anwar would be produced in a Magistrate Court here tomorrow morning on several charges including breach of peace, illegal assembly and vandalism.

He also said that Anwar cooperated with the police during the arrest and offered no resistance.

Nobody was injured during the public disturbances, he added.

-- BERNAMA

ZKS GM ABG TS