

30 SEP 1998

Zahid-Released

ZAHID FREED FROM ISA DETENTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth head Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and four top leaders of the Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (ABIM) detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) have been unconditionally freed, police said today.

The four ABIM leaders are its president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, deputy president Mokhtar Ridzwan, vice president Abdul Halim Ismail and secretary-general Shaharuddin Badaruddin.

All of them were arrested on Sept 21 under Section 73 (1) of the ISA a day after former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was detained under the same Act.

The Bukit Aman Police Headquarters in a statement issued at 3.50pm said all five people were freed unconditionally.

They were among 17 people detained following illegal assemblies and disturbances in Kuala Lumpur. The illegal assemblies were held by supporters of Anwar who was sacked from the Cabinet on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno a day earlier.

Zahid was freed at Brickfields District Police Station here and was seen leaving the station in a Proton Wira at about noon.

The Umno Youth Chief was detained in Kota Kinabalu and brought to Kuala Lumpur on Sept 24.

Among those still detained are Negeri Sembilan Umno Youth Chief Ruslan Kassim and Bandar Tun Razak Umno Division head Tamunif Mokhtar.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday that Anwar was detained under the ISA for inciting his followers to riot.

Till this evening no statement was forthcoming from Ahmad Zahid who was resting with his family at his house here.

Meanwhile Abim Vice President (International Affairs) Associate Professor Dr Mohammad Redzuan Othman said in a statement this evening that the four ABIM leaders were freed at about 1pm.

"All of them are in good health and resting with their families," he said.

He was grateful to God for the unconditional release of the four ABIM leaders and hoped the others being held under the ISA would also be freed or brought to trial speedily.

--BERNAMA

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