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Anwar supporter back from self-imposed exile

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - After living in self-imposed exile for the past six months, Saifudin Nasution Ismail, a strong supporter of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, has returned.

The bespectacled Saifudin was spotted speaking to a journalist attached with a foreign daily, at the Federal Court in Jalan Raja this morning.

When met by local journalists, Saifuddin declined comment on when he had returned or where he had sought refuge.

About three weeks ago, Anwar's former political secretary Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor, who had lived in self-imposed exile, returned from abroad.

Last September, Saifudin, the former Umno Youth assistant secretary, former Penang Umno Youth chief Abdul Rahim Ghouse, and Ezam, fled the country following Anwar's arrest under the Internal Security Act.

The three were among 10 Umno members expelled from the party by the supreme council last October for taking part in anti-Umno activities.

While living in self-imposed exile, Saifudin, Abdul Rahim and Ezam had faxed Press statements from Jakarta, Bangkok and Manila, respectively, calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to resign.

Following the return of Saifudin and Ezam, Rahim's return appears to be a foregone conclusion.

(END)