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`No protection for those who injured Anwar'

THOSE responsible for injuring former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while he was under police detention will not be protected by the Government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the person or persons responsible for the infamous "black eye" will get the punishment deserved.

"I want to know who did this because the person who did it has done a disservice to the country, the police force and me.

"Because of what he has done, the attention has been diverted from Anwar's crime to the question of who gave him a black eye. It is not something that I wanted to happen and I want to find out who did this thing," Dr Mahathir said in response to a question from a Malaysian student at a meeting here on Saturday.

Later, at a Press conference, a British journalist asked him to comment whether there was any truth to claims that the former Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor was involved in the incident.

Dr Mahathir said: "I can't say anything. I have no right to say because I have no evidence myself. But if the Commission of Inquiry finds it is so, then it is so."

Asked what would happen if this was true, Dr Mahathir replied the law would take its course.

On whether he would give his support to clear the name of the former IGP, he said: "I don't support anything that I don't know about. If he is wrong, he is wrong. If he is right, he is right. And I will support him if he is right.

"I will not support him if he is wrong. It is not an unusual stand to take."

Also present at the meeting were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail and Malaysian High Commissioner Datuk Amir Jaafar.

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