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MAKE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE PUBLIC, SAYS NGO

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- The terms of reference of the independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the injuries sustained by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody should be made public immediately, the International Movement for a Just World said today.

Its president, Prof Chandra Muzaffar, said the terms of reference should ensure that the commission was empowered to identify the person or persons responsible for the assault on Anwar and those who aided and abetted the act.

"Here again, Malaysians are puzzled why the terms of reference were not made public, together with the announcement about the establishment of the commission," he said in a statement, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government would make public the findings of the commission and that the commission itself would decide on its terms of reference.

The four-member commission, announced by the prime minister on Jan 27, is headed by former chief judge of Malaya Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin.

The other members are former Appeals Court judge Datuk Mahadev Shankar, former Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president and orthopaedic surgeon Datuk Dr Yeoh Poh Hong and former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman.

Chandra also said that the commission should conduct its proceedings as an open inquiry, accessible to the public.

He said the government must also recommend to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong that a couple of additional members be appointed to the commission from the political opposition and non-governmental organisations.

-- BERNAMA

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