

# Indian group submits memorandum on attacks

STAR 31 MAR 2001

KUALA LUMPUR: A group of Indians submitted a memorandum to the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) yesterday, complaining of police failure to give adequate protection to the community against physical attacks.

The group, including relatives of several attack victims, urged Suhakam to launch a public inquiry into the cause of the clashes in Kampung Medan.

The group of about 20 people, led by lawyer P. Uthayakumar, gave the memorandum, titled *No police protection for the Indian community in Kampung Lindungan and the surrounding areas* to Suhakam commissioner Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin.

The memorandum, addressed to Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Musa Hitam, among

others contained 17 points including claims of the failure of the police to protect the Indian community, the arrests of Indians, whom the group claimed were actually trying to protect their families from attacks and claims.

Uthayakumar said there was no racially-motivated clashes in Kampung Medan, adding that some unknown group or groups were involved in attacking the people.

"We believe that there were agent provocateurs involved in creating disturbances in the area.

"Even during the period of attacks, we received information that some Malay families had protected some Indian men who feared that they might be attacked," he added.

"I have also sent letters to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and In-

spector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai claiming that there was no police action to protect the Indian community from attacks," he added.

The report also claimed that, based on the police reports by some victims, the police were in the vicinity of Kampung Medan when the attacks occurred.

However, Anuar said that Suhakam had called the police after the commission received a telephone call claiming that the police had not given protection to the people, especially the Indian community in Kampung Medan.

"In fact, the police operations were increased after we informed them," he said.

Anuar agreed to look into the complaints of the group.

The Suhakam commissioners will meet on April 9 to decide on the matter.