

# ISA used less

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# frequently now

## More detentions before Dr M's time

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Internal Security Act has been used far less often in the last 20 years than in the 1970s, and mostly for reasons of safeguarding national security.

During Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's first 20 years as Prime Minister (1981 to 2001), there were 1,203 ISA detentions or an average of 60 a year.

This average is significantly lower than those during the tenures of his predecessors.

- Tun Hussein Onn (1976 to 1980): 1,245 detentions or an average of 249 a year;

- Tun Abdul Razak (1970 to January 1976): 574 detentions or an average of 95 a year;

- Tunku Abdul Rahman (1960 to 1969): 1,199 detentions or an average of 120 a year.

Chua), party Johor youth chief Lokman Noor Adam, activist Hishammuddin Rais, former Jemaah Islamiah Malaysia president Saari Sungib and former lecturer Dr Badrul Amin Baharom.

The rest of the detainees are held for being a threat to national security and for economic sabotage.

Twenty-one are detained for smuggling illegal immigrants; 15 are Al-Maunah members; 11 for counterfeiting coins; seven for forging identity cards and travel documents; four are Free Aceh Movement members; three for arms smuggling; three for international terrorism; and three are Kumpulan Militan Malaysia members. The 73 detainees include nine foreigners.

In the past, detainees have also been held for being communists, leaking state secrets, sabotage of essential services, Islamic extremists, being involved in the Sabah separatist movement, piracy and cloning handphones.

**Arrests and detentions under  
the Internal Security Act  
from 1960 to Sept 5, 2001**



Year	Arrests	Detention orders	Restriction Orders
1960	30	23	5
1961	40	32	20
1962	37	25	12
1963	57	28	23
1964	265	228	29
1965	408	393	11
1966	143	117	20
1967	169	122	20
1968	278	131	142
1969	178	100	69
1970	265	72	55
1971	431	126	116
1972	411	71	128