

PAS veeps sue gov't, police over Bersih arrests
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PAS vice-presidents Salahuddin Ayub and Mahfuz Omar today filed a suit against the federal government and inspector-general of police Ismail Omar for "wrongful arrest" during the Bersih 2.0 rally on July 9.

Also named as respondents are Brickfields district police headquarters chief Wan Abdul Bari Wan Abdul Khalid and arresting officer Mohd Zaid Mazizat.

In separate civil suits filed this morning at the Kuala Lumpur High Court, they claimed that the arrests had defamed them.

"We are filing these lawsuits as a reminder and lesson to government bodies to be meticulous and cautious in carrying out their duties. This is not for us but a lesson (for the authorities) that laws must be observed justly and not as how we were treated on July 9," said Salahuddin (left).

The duo are seeking general, aggravated and exemplary damages.

The two are being represented by PAS Youth's legal bureau lawyer Zulhazmi Shariff and law firm Tetuan Faiz Fadzil & Co.

The double suits are the third of over 50 individual suits which the Islamic party claims it will be filling against the government and police for various arrests made on July 9, with the first one being initiated last Thursday.

Mahfuz said the two had not done anything wrong when they were arrested at KL Sentral and were not aware why they were arrested.

"We were not informed of the reason of our arrest when we were detained at Jinjang police station nor was any statement taken from us. We feel this act has shamed us especially since Salahuddin and I have contacts nationally and internationally," he said.

Mahfuz (right in photo) said that the amount of damages that the two are seeking is not decided but it should be significant to deter a repeat of the incident.

"We will discuss with our lawyers the sum (of the lawsuit) when the case is heard. The authorities have to be reminded not to violate the law as they please, so for me, the amount should be no less than RM1 million to prevent a repeat of such a situation," he added.

The duo were among the 91 individuals who had a restriction order issued against them, barring them from entering KL.

However, the two insist that the restriction order does not list KL Sentral as part of the area they are barred from entering.