

Take up La Rue's offer, gov't told
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By Nigel Aw

PKR Youth has called on the government to take up a United Nations special rapporteur's offer to be part of the independent panel to probe violence that occurred during the Bersih 3.0 rally.

Commenting on UN special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression Frank La Rue's offer, PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin said the former's participation would enhance the credibility of the panel.

Shamsul said that apart from La Rue (*right*), the panel needs to be bi-partisan and also include representatives from media organisations.

"The panel should include Pakatan Rakyat MPs, La Rue, as well as representatives from the media who were also victims of violence during the protest," he said.

Refusal to appoint a bipartisan panel including international figures would reflect on the committee's lack of credibility, said Shamsul at a press conference at the PKR headquarters this evening.

La Rue told *Malaysiakini* today that he was [happy to investigate](#) the Bersih 3.0 incident, if the government sent him an invitation.

The Geneva-based lawyer who hails from Guatemala said following reports of Bersih 3.0, he was more than willing to come to Malaysia to do so.

Hotline for 'Bersih wanted'

Shamsul (*below*) at the press conference also highlighted several incidences of alleged police violence against protesters whom he said had complained to him.

He said PKR Youth have set up a hotline to assist some 91 individuals wanted by the police whose photographs have been published in major newspapers.

"Some of them do not have an avenue to go to (for help), so we are telling them not to go to the police first. Engage us and we will give them legal aid and advice," he said.

He added that the police must clearly state the reason why it is seeking the 91 individuals in relation to the Bersih 3.0 rally.

The legal assistance team can be contacted at amkbersih248@gmail.com or 012-6541415.

"If it is about breaking the barricade (at Dataran Merdeka), tell me under which law they will be charged, as the area that was barricaded was not included in the court order," he said.

Proponents of Bersih have argued that the court order obtained by police barring anyone from gathering at Dataran Merdeka did not extend beyond the parade grounds around which the barricades had been positioned.

Meanwhile responding to the National Fatwa Committee declaring “unproductive” protests haram, Shamsul said the wing will be seeking a clarification from the committee.

"I do not want to pre-judge the decision made by the committee, but it was based on mainstream media reports. We will write a letter to the committee for clarification.

"Do not forget the example of Egypt when one of its mufti said the uprising there was illegal, but later the grand mufti said the cause (for the uprising) was correct," he said.

Bernama today reported the committee saying that demonstrations that were “unproductive, is against the law or causes disturbance in the country” were haram.

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