

## **Filmmaker gives statement on Bersih police brutality**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**June 22, 2012**

**By Hazlan Zakaria**

Police today recorded the statement of filmmaker Linus Chung who had posted on YouTube a video of a group of police officers assaulting and beating up a Bersih protester, without apparent provocation.

His statement was taken for one-and-a-half hours from 10.30am till noon at the Dang Wangi district police headquarters today by a team headed by ASP Chua Wee Seng.

Chung (left in picture) told reporters that police wanted his statement to assist in an ongoing investigation of police brutality during the April 28 rally for electoral reform.

“I was asked to come to give my statement on my Bersih video,” he said when met after his statement was recorded.

Two police officers came to his house two days ago, he said, and wanted to take his statement there and then, but he insisted he wanted a lawyer present.

'Malaysians must know their rights'

Chung then contacted Latheefa Koya of Lawyers for Liberty, who agreed to arrange legal representation for him, but only later in the week.

He then relented to the police and asked that his statement be recorded at a nearby coffee shop, where he would videotape the session.

The police initially agreed, but then said a coffee shop was no place for them to record a statement.

Chung then offered to go to the Taman Tun Dr Ismail police station to have his statement recorded but the police insisted that this be done at the Dang Wangi district police headquarters, which was finally agreed to.

He felt that the police were a bit intimidating in their approach, which was why Malaysians must know their rights when being questioned by the police and only give statements on their own terms.

The filmmaker was today accompanied by Lawyers for Liberty member Farida Mohamad, who was present when his statement was recorded by the police.

“It was okay. I was there to ensure that there would be no duress or questions that could incriminate my client. There was no harassment,” Farida told reporters later.

Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng and DAP lawyer Eric Tan also came with Chung, but they were denied permission to observe the proceedings.

Chung's video was posted on video sharing site YouTube about two months ago, a day after the April 28 gathering that saw more than 100,000 participants flood the streets of Kuala Lumpur.

The video shows a policeman grabbing a Bersih participant who was standing still and doing nothing and pull him towards a group of police officers.

The officers, one of whom has his face covered with a handkerchief, proceed to physically assault the man without any apparent provocation.

The officer with the covered face can be clearly seen kicking the yellow-clad man somewhere in the lower crotch or upper thigh, really hard, while other officers rain blows on him.

Other protesters then rush towards the man as cries of "Help! Help!" rise among the crowd.

The assault victim is finally pulled to safety by the other protesters, away from the police 'gauntlet'.

Chung is one of the film directors whose work 'House' was featured in the 15 Malaysia short films project that showcased 15 short films from 15 Malaysian directors dealing with socio-political issues in this multiracial land.

An artist and writer as well, Chung has been actively documenting civil society activities as well as socio-political issues in the country.

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