

PAS Youth: Free ISA detainees or face mass rally
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By Nigel Aw

PAS Youth today issued an ultimatum to the federal government to free the remaining detainees held under the Internal Security Act (ISA) by September or face another mass rally in Kuala Lumpur.

The wing's chief Nasrudin Hasan said they will first use the holy month of Ramadan to campaign for the release of the remaining 45 detainees held at the detention centre in Kamunting.

"We expect that (the rally) will take place by September if all our efforts (to lobby for their freedom) is ignored," he said at a press conference at PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon.

Nasrudin said for a start, the party has mobilised nearly a thousand members to hold a protest at Kamunting tomorrow.

Although the ISA has been repealed and replaced with the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, the new law gazetted on June 22 still allows for continued detention of existing ISA detainees.

'Charge detainees in court'

Hasan added the party will conduct roadshows and open house events during Ramadan with the families of the detainees in the build up to the September rally.

"The mass rally is to seek justice... We are not saying that the detainees should be simply let off, but that if they are guilty, then charge them in court. We oppose detention without trial," he said.

Nasrudin added that the party will coordinate with Gerakan Mansuhan ISA (GMI), which had in 2009 organised a massive street protest to call for the law's abolition.

On a separate matter, Nasrudin said the party will be organising a dialogue between young professionals and PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

"This is part of our effort to attract young professionals who would like to join our cause. Both professionals and ulama will participate," he said.

The dialogue will be held at the Selangor Menteri Besar's Residence on Aug 11, from 2pm to 8pm and will focus on PAS' welfare state agenda.

Also present at the press conference were PAS Youth deputy chief Nik Abduh Nik Aziz and PAS secretary Khairul Faizi Mohd Kamil.

