

Cameraman gets 'earful' in 1M'sia bikers scuffle

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By Susan Loone

PENANG A journalist with a Chinese daily was boxed in his ear when a scuffle broke out between a group of men sporting 1Malaysia T-shirts and DAP supporters in Penang last night.

The incident occurred around 9.30pm when about 50 men on motorcycles and sporting the blue 1Malaysia T-shirts allegedly tried to disrupt a ceramah held by DAP at the PAS operations centre in Bukit Gelugor last night.

The men were seen carrying BN flags when they arrived at the site.

They started booing loudly at the crowd who attended the event and tried to force their way into the ceramah area but were prevented from doing so by DAP supporters.

A minor altercation broke out between the two groups and in the midst of this, China Press photographer Sin Kam Weng was punched on his ear.

Police report lodged

Sin, 24, later lodged a report at the nearby Jelutong police station at 10.41pm. Accompanying him was Penang municipal councillor Prem Anand Kumar.

"When the scuffle happened, I tried to take a photograph but was punched on the right ear. The man who punched me warned me not to take any pictures," said Sin in his police report.

"When I told him I merely wanted to record what happened, he ran away from the ceramah site," he added.

When contacted, Seri Delima incumbent RSN Rayer, who was one of the speakers at the ceramah, confirmed that the incident had taken place.

"We had to cancel the talk for security reasons. DAP national chairperson Karpal Singh was scheduled to give a speech but we stopped that too," he added.

The commotion took place when incumbent Bukit Gelugor parliamentarian Karpal

was giving his speech.

Karpal described the bikers' action as a "serious assault", adding that DAP does not condone such violent culture.

He urged caretaker Prime Minister Najib Razak to advise BN supporters to respect the democratic rights of their opponents.

"We want a clean and fair fight. Fight here does not mean with violence," Karpal said, following the incident.

According to Karpal, DAP was advised by an Election Commission official to stop the ceramah as it did not have a permit for the event.

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