

UN to hear report on M'sian gov't 'rights violation'

MalaysiaKini.com

May 29, 2013

Details on how the BN government, led by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, allegedly trampled on the fundamental democratic rights of Malaysians in the lead up to the 13th general election will be tabled before the United Nations tomorrow by Penang-based NGO Aliran.

The 23rd session of the UN's Human Rights Council (UNHRC) will hear details of BN's alleged ongoing assault on Malaysia's public space from human rights group Suaram's executive director E Nalini.

Malaysians affiliated to Suaram - Bala Chelliah and Yolanda Augustin - will speak on behalf of Aliran in their address, the latter said in a statement to Malaysiakini today.

They will set out in detail how the right to freedom of expression, as well as to peaceful assembly and association, have been severely restricted by the incumbent government, returned to power with poll results that many Malaysians claim are fraudulent.

The Malaysian trio will present oral statements at the interactive dialogues with UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Maina Kiai, and UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression Frank La Rue.

They will also meet and update the UN working group on arbitrary detention and participate in two high profile side sessions.

"UN will also receive details of (alleged) cyber attacks on alternative media and political violence that included death threats against returned Batu MP Tian Chua that were made at a BN campaign rally, led by former Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein" social reform group Aliran said.

The delegation will also draw the UNHRC's focus to the plight of Anything But Umno (ABU) chief Haris Ibrahim, Chua, PAS member Tamrin Ghafar, student activist Safwan Anang and veteran activist Hishammuddin Rais, all of whom claimed trial to charges for sedition in KL today.

"The events that ensued after student activist Adam Adli's arrest for speaking at a

forum, and how the university student activist suffered five days of imprisonment, during which time he was denied a simple pillow or blanket to sleep on, will also be tabled," the statement reads.

Among the other allegations that Aliran will raise to the world body include:

Pakatan Rakyat only being provided 10 minutes of airtime on national television during the campaign period;

How the Evidence Act 1950 and the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (PPPA) together violate international standards on the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

How alternative online news portals endured sustained cyber attacks, or Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) assaults;

Independent radio stations Radio Free Sarawak and Radio Free Malaysia had their broadcasts systematically jammed;

How Malaysians who gathered peacefully by candlelight to hold vigils for Adam suffered intimidation and harassment by police, who acted under a "highly restrictive" law- which is the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 (PAA);

Note that human rights watchdog Suaram was last year probed by Malaysia's Registrar of Societies (ROS) and the Company Commission of Malaysia (CCM), for alleged "financial irregularities" and "accepting foreign donations to undermine the Malaysian government";

Malaysia's recent election, in which BN purportedly won a mandate to remain in government amid allegations of widespread electoral fraud;

How the opposition won 51 percent of the popular vote, compared to 47 percent for the government, which nevertheless allowed Najib's incumbent government to snap up 60 percent of federal parliament seats (133), while Pakatan won 89;

Former defence minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's statement on Twitter, "We shall move to the war zone to kill all adverse political intruders", within days of the 13th general election being called.

Aliran is expected to conclude its report to the UN by urging them to immediately condemn the unacceptable human rights violations presently taking place in Malaysia.

It will "call for cessation of orchestrated intimidation and harassment of democracy activists and human rights defenders by the police and other parties".

Aside that, the delegation also plans will also urge the government to allow the legitimate exercise of freedom of association and other fundamental freedoms enshrined in the federal constitution.

They would also seek that Kiai and Frank be permitted to visit Malaysia, so as to carry out an independent inquiry, with the Malaysian government's full cooperation.

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