

## **Students lodge report on anti-GST demo assault**

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**By Alyaa Azhar**

Students today lodged a police report on alleged police brutality against activists who were involved in protests against the goods and services tax (GST).

Persatuan Mahasiswa Universiti Malaya (PMUM) president Mohamad Ammar Atan lodged the report at the Dang Wangi police headquarters this afternoon.

Ammar said his friends, fellow students Yazid Khairul Azman and Adam Festival Wilfried were beaten by the police while in custody on March 23 after the duo protested against the arrest of the other anti-GST activists.

The activists were arrested for a sit-in protest at the Customs Department office in Kelana Jaya earlier that day, to demand answers to 106 questions regarding the GST.

Adam, a Universiti Malaya (UM) student, was arrested at 10pm that day and was allegedly "kicked, strangled and punched until the throes of death" while in custody at the Kelana Jaya police station, he was .

Universiti Islam Antarabangsa (UIA) student Yazid was arrested at 12.30am on March 24, and also claimed that he was beat up and verbally abused by the police.

Ammar said that he was told by lawyers that Yazid was hit while his face was covered with a piece of cloth.

Another UM student, Khairol Najib Hashim was allegedly beaten up at the Customs Department during the sit-in protest at around 5pm.

"He said his face was kicked, head stomped on and mouth slapped," said Ammar in his police report.

Pictures of students while in custody sighted by Malaysiakini showed that all three had bruises and wounds on their foreheads and the sides of their faces.

In a statement signed by 22 student groups, Ammar also urged inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar to take responsibility over the matter.

"We urge him to be responsible over all the forms of oppression made against those who were arrested," the statement reads.

The statement was signed by student groups from various institutions including UM, UIA, Universiti Malaysia Sabah Antarabangsa Labuan (UMSKAL), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris.

The students were not the only ones claiming assault.

Several elected representatives present at the vigil outside Kelana Jaya police station also said they were roughed up by the anti-riot police during scuffles, and have lodged complaints of their own.

A total 25 anti-GST activists were today charged under Section 21(1)(d) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012, read together with Section 557 of the Penal Code for criminal trespass and not abiding by police orders to disperse.

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