

Several arrests at ISA candlelight vigils
Malaysianmirror.com
02 August 2010

PETALING JAYA - Several people here were detained during candlelight vigils to mark the 50th anniversary of the Internal Security Act's existence on Sunday night.

According to The Star, 19 men and six women were arrested and taken to the PJ police headquarters for questioning as riot police broke up the vigils.

Among those detained were Gerakan Mansuhkan ISA chairman Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh and PKR supreme council member Badrul Hisham Shaharin.

A web news site reported that Selangor exco Ronnie Liu had gone to the police headquarters to post bail for those detained.

About 20 lawyers from the Malaysian Bar Council were consequently seen entering the police headquarters.

Elsewhere, it was reported that four people were detained in Penang and one in Ipoh.

The activists, according to The Star, had earlier gathered at the entrance of Amcorp Mall at about 7pm. They were stopped by the police including PJ OCPD Asst Comm Arjunaidi Mohamed when they tried to move to Dataran MBPJ, Padang Timur.

They were reportedly told to disperse while Federal Reserve Unit and light strike force personnel were mobilised when they refused to do so.

A scuffle broke out between both parties causing the activists to head back towards the shopping mall.

Police subsequently formed a barricade outside the entrance and prevented the vigil group from coming out.

Suhakam commissioner James Nayagam said the commission's presence was to ensure there was no abuse by police.

"Rest assured that Suhakam will look after their welfare and wellbeing," he was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, in George Town, four men were detained, including Suaram's Penang branch co-ordinator Ong Jing Cheng. They were gathered at Speakers Corner at the Esplanade.

In Petaling Jaya, PJ City Council (MBPJ) councillor Latheefa Koya reportedly accused the police of failing to respect the local authority's jurisdiction.

Latheefa, who is also PKR information chief, was quoted by a web news site: "The council has given written permission for this programme and issued an authorisation letter. But the police completely ignored it."

PJ district police chief ACP Arjunaidi Mohamed told reporters that their hand was forced, after those involved failed to disperse when instructed to do so near the start of the gathering about 7pm.

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source :

<http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/47531-several-arrests-at-isa-candlelight-vigils->