

RPK a free man: Federal Court strikes off Home Minister's appeal
Malaysianmirror.com
01 November 2010

PUTRAJAYA: - Malaysian blogger and editor of Malaysia Today, Raja Petra Raja Kamarudin (left), is a free man after the Federal Court on Monday struck off the Home Minister's appeal over his release under a habeas corpus application.

The ruling was made after the parties told the apex court that the two-year old detention order had lapsed, The Star reported.

Raja Petra was detained under the Internal Security Act for 56 days but in November 2008, Shah Alam High Court Justice Syed Ahmad Helmy Syed Ahmad allowed his habeas corpus application saying that the Home Minister had acted outside his powers.

The judge had held that although a Section 8 detention order barred judicial review, a procedural non-compliance by the Minister had resulted in making the order "ultra vires".

Then Home Minister Syed Hamid appealed the Shah Alam High Court decision.

RPK was arrested and detained in Sept 2008 under the ISA and subsequently released on Nov 7 which the Shah Alam High Court ruled that his two-year detention at the Kamunting detention camp in Taiping was unlawful.

Since May 2009, RPK went to "exile" when the sedition and criminal defamation were still on trials which he had claimed was another attempt to detain him under the ISA.

The controversial blogger had also challenged the Malaysian authorities to extradite him from UK where an extradition request must be based on corresponding illegality.

RPK issued an open letter to the Prime Minister, Najib Abdul Razak, in July for him to return to Malaysia on the condition that PM could guarantee he would not be placed under detention without trial.

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