

Preventive Detention Laws Contradict The Principles Of Human Rights

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The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) expresses its disappointment and dismay over the recent arrest of 13 individuals under the Internal Security Act 1960 (ISA), over their alleged association with a militant movement in Sabah.

This action on the part of the authorities is indeed surprising, and clearly contradicts the bold and historic decision of the Prime Minister to abolish the ISA and his recognition of, and respect for, basic human rights and the balance between these rights and the rule of law within the nation's Parliamentary democratic system - which was long awaited and wholeheartedly welcomed by the people.

Consistent with its previous calls for the repeal of all preventive detention laws, the Commission urges the authorities to release all those detained under these laws and accord them their rights to an open trial with legal representations.

The Commission also calls upon the Government to stop legislating laws which allows detention without trial and to deal with issues relating to terrorism issues under other existing laws; and that pending the repeal of the ISA, no more arrests will be made under this Act.

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