

**Anwar, Azmin Should Take Responsibility For Riot  
Nizar's Changing Stand Over Allegations  
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By Chai Kim Sen**

Both de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim and PKR Deputy President Azmin Ali should stand up and take responsibility over the riot which took place last Sunday during the Bersih 3.0 rally. Their lame excuse that their hand gestures to each other only meant that they were negotiating with the police and that it was not an order to breach the cordon is not acceptable.

Their claims that they were communicating with each other on negotiating with the police, even if it were true, could have been misunderstood by the crowd nearby. Due to the sheer numbers of people gathered there, the loudness of the crowd, and the speeches given by opposition politicians berating the BN government, thus it is no surprise that their actions could have been misinterpreted as the signal to charge.

In a crowd, when people are excited, they are easily influenced, and speeches condemning BN and the police had probably hyped the protestors up so much, that when they saw Anwar rolling his hands, it was easily misconstrued as an order to charge. Being experts in deceiving crowds of supporters, they should have known better than to make such easily misinterpreted gestures.

In fact, it would not be surprising if their excuse was only meant as an afterthought to escape any responsibility. After seeing the aftermath and the violence towards the police which was done by the protestors, they had probably decided to avert responsibility by claiming that they had not signaled anyone to break the barriers.

Whether or not Anwar was giving the go-ahead to Azmin to breach the police cordon or not, the riot had definitely started because of that event where the protestors had broken through the barriers. Thus, Anwar and Azmin, as the opposition leaders who were giving speeches at that time, should own up and take responsibility for their actions and apologize to the police and to all Malaysians for causing the breaching of barriers, whether directly or indirectly, which had then turned Bersih 3.0 into a bloody, vicious riot.

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