

PM warns of legal action

The Star - 27/11/2006

Don't try to revive banned al-Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR: Anyone who tries to revive the banned al-Arqam movement will face legal action, the Government warns.

"The al-Arqam movement is illegal and has been banned.

"So, efforts to revive al-Arqam teachings will be met with legal action," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters during a visit to the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism (Maha) exhibition site in Serdang, near here, yesterday.

He was asked on the arrest of 107 people, who were allegedly connected to the banned group,

in Shah Alam on Saturday.

Abdullah, who is also the Internal Security Minister, said there must be a reason for the Selangor Islamic Affairs Department (Jais) officers to arrest them.

The National Fatwa Council had banned the movement in August 1994 after its teachings and ideology were found to be deviating from Islamic teachings.

Among those detained in the 5.30pm raid at the upper floor of a bakery in Section 13 were four men who are believed to be the key people in the at-

tempt to revive the teachings of the movement.

The four, referred to as "sheikh" by their followers, would be charged soon.

They are said to be the convenors of a group called Rufaqa, who conduct *ceramah* and other programmes nationwide on the banned al-Arqam teachings.

The Rufaqa group is also allegedly a movement started by Ashaari Muhammad, who is known to his followers by a number of titles, including Abuya, Putera Bani Tamim, Ruhul Muqaddasah and Sohibus Zaman.