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Rela men hurt when newsmen mob Dr M

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THREE Rela members were injured when media personnel mobbed former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon after the opening of the Umno general assembly.

The Rela members claimed that a photographer, believed to be from foreign media, hit them with a video camera when they tried to control the situation.

More than 100 local and international journalists, photographers and videomen had been waiting outside the VIP room where the leaders had adjourned for refreshments after party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's address.

When Dr Mahathir's bodyguards came out, the hordes of newsmen surged forward with their equipment.

His bodyguards and Rela mem-

bers shouted at the media personnel to make way for Dr Mahathir who wanted to go to the toilet.

When he came out to go to the media conference room, the newsmen surged towards him again, causing security personnel to form a barricade around him.

A female reporter fell in the melee.

Rela members Mohd Sofian Abu Bakar, Razali Kaslar and Norazmy Mohamad claimed they were hit on their heads.

Mohd Sofian claimed that a photographer hit him thrice on the head, while Razali and Norazmy claimed they were hit twice on their foreheads.

At the end of the press conference, Dr Mahathir asked the media to stay and not move to enable him to leave the room first.



Mutual respect: Najib shaking hands with Dr Mahathir while Muhyiddin looks on at the general assembly in PWTC, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.