

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	26 JULY 2017



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi at a gathering in Putrajaya yesterday said political arrests were made only during Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's tenure as prime minister when the Internal Security Act was enforced. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

'No political arrests made during Najib's rule'

NSF- 26/7/2017 Pg. 12

PUTRAJAYA: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has rubbished the *Country Reports on Terrorism 2016* by the United States that Malaysia has been using its national security law to arrest individuals with different political views.

The report states that Malaysia uses its national security laws to arrest, jail, harass, and intimidate critics and political opposition, among others.

Zahid said no political arrests had been made during Datuk Seri Najib Razak's premiership and also during his predecessor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's time.

"The political arrests were made only during Tun Dr Ma-

hathir Mohamad's tenure as prime minister when the Internal Security Act (ISA) was enforced.

"In fact, I was also one of those arrested under ISA in 1998.

"No politically-motivated arrests have ever been made during Pak Lah's (Abdullah's) and Najib's time.

"This means that the current government is more transparent and open when dealing with political differences," he said after attending the Home Ministry's monthly assembly here yesterday.

The report, which was published last Thursday, also stated that in November last year, Malaysian police arrested a human rights activist under the Security Offences (Special Mea-

asures) Act 2012 (Sosma) on the eve of a planned public demonstration and held her in solitary confinement for 10 days.

The statement referred to Bersih 2.0 co-chairman Maria Chin Abdullah who was detained under Sosma on Nov 19 amid the Bersih 5 rally.

Police were quoted as saying that the arrest was made to prevent riots, breach of peace and public order.

The report was submitted in compliance with Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f, which requires the Department of State to provide to Congress a full and complete annual report on terrorism for those countries and groups meeting the criteria of the act.