

Explain ISA use on suspected militants, PAS asks Najib
By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 — PAS came to the defence today of 13 suspected Islamic militants detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) by demanding that Datuk Seri Najib Razak explain why the law was still in use after he had promised to repeal it.

The PAS ulama council wants the 13 detainees, believed to be either members or supporters of the Islamist party, to be released from ISA detention and instead be charged in open court.

PAS said today that the party hopes “the prime minister is not lying to Malaysians about the abolishment of the ISA.” — file pic

“We hope the prime minister is not lying to Malaysians about the abolishment of the ISA.

“We want the suspects to be tried in court. What is the use of repealing the ISA if its spirit is still there? A person should be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law,” PAS’ Ulama Council assistant secretary Nazmi Nik Din was quoted as saying by Harakah.

PAS central committee member Mazlan Aliman also said today that his party will be bringing the wives of the 13 detainees to Parliament next week to submit a memorandum of protest to Prime Minister Najib.

It was earlier reported that 10 of those arrested on Monday were PAS members or supporters.

Sabah PAS commissioner Mohd Aminuddin Aling had questioned the arrests, which he said were made without warrants, notice or any prior information.

In his Malaysia Day address, Prime Minister Najib had promised a raft of reforms including the repeal of the ISA to give the public more freedom.

But the prime minister later said the repeal of the law that allows for preventive detention without trial will only take place next year after two new laws are drafted to replace it.

The Inspector-General of Police confirmed on Thursday that seven Malaysians and six foreigners were arrested in Sabah on Monday under section 73(1) of the ISA to thwart their alleged efforts at reviving a militant movement in the state.

The police have not disclosed the identity of the militant movement.

Bernama Online reported, however, an English daily has linked the individuals to the Islamic Abu Omar group, better known as the Kaltim group that uses Kalimantan as its base.

According to the daily, the group was using Tawau as a transit point to amass firearms procured from south Philippines.

IGP Tan Sri Ismail Omar and Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein have defended the use of the ISA on the suspected militants, saying the arrests were the result

of both internal and foreign intelligence received by the police.

The Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) have also asked the authorities to release the 13 suspected militants from ISA detention as their arrests contravene Najib's promise to repeal the law.

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