

**Mat Sabu says willing to testify in Bersih inquiry**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 — Mohamad Sabu said today that he will put himself forward as a witness in the ongoing public inquiry into the July 9 protests.

The Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) inquiry commenced today with witnesses testifying riot police had fired tear gas directly at a crowd of peaceful and “non-hostile” Bersih supporters and that some demonstrators were violently shoved to the ground and kicked by police personnel.

The PAS deputy president has alleged he was knocked down by a police vehicle while riding pillion on a motorcycle, causing him to badly injure his right knee on the day of the Bersih rally.

The police have in turn denied that a patrol car felled the PAS deputy president, and have screened a CCTV video recording showing there was no contact between the police car and Mohamad.

“Yes, for sure I will,” Mohamad told The Malaysian Insider via SMS today when asked whether he would be a witness in the inquiry.

The PAS leader, who is currently overseas, said, however, that he has yet to inform Suhakam of his intentions.

PAS lawyer Mohamed Hanipa Maidin told The Malaysian Insider that he had already informed Mohamad about the inquiry.

“He told me he was interested to participate,” said Hanipa.

Mohamad, better known as Mat Sabu, was said to have been heading towards Masjid Negara on July 9 at around 12.30pm when a police car allegedly came into contact deliberately with the motorcycle that he was on, causing it to fall.

Bersih estimates that 50,000 people showed up at the July 9 rally for free and fair elections despite efforts to prevent it from taking place while police have said there were only 6,000 present.

The protest turned chaotic when police fired tear gas and water cannon at thousands of demonstrators, resulting in nearly 1,700 arrests, scores injured and the death of ex-soldier Baharuddin Ahmad, 59.

Suhakam said today it received the names of 26 individuals who had agreed to record their statements and testify. However, only 14 people have actually “stepped forward” to help the inquiry.

Three witnesses have testified so far.

The inquiry has set itself three terms of reference — to identify human rights violations on or before July 9; to determine how the violations occurred as well as the process and agency involved; and to make recommendations to prevent any recurrence.

The inquiry is led by Suhakam vice-chairman Professor Datuk Dr Khaw Lake Tee, commissioners Datuk Dr Mahmood Zuhdi Abdul Majid and Detta Samen.

The Bar Council is represented by Roger Chan and Richard Wee, while the police are represented by ASP N. Rajagopal and ASP Lim Chee Wah.

The inquiry resumes on November 15.

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