

DAP wants Utusan suspended over Christian plot row
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 — DAP demanded the home ministry suspend Utusan Malaysia's licence after concluding there was "no concrete proof" of plans to turn Malaysia into a Christian state.

The home ministry had replied to a Parliamentary question by Kulim Bandar Baru MP Datuk Zulkifli Noordin on October 3 that the Attorney General has decided there will be "no further action" into the accusation by the Malay daily based on a blog posting by pro-Umno blogger Zakhir Mohamad Zakhir, who blogs under the pseudonym Big Dog, had claimed in May that that pastors and DAP were engaged in a plot to establish a Christian state and install a Christian prime minister.

Lawmakers from the opposition party told a press conference today that the "home ministry cannot defend liars."

"We call on the home ministry to suspend Utusan's licence for publishing this baseless report and causing strife between religions," said Jelutong MP Jeff Ooi (picture).

The Christian state claims had touched off angry protests that forced Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to clear the air with church leaders.

But tension between Muslims and Christians has continued to rise, leading to a gathering of a million Muslims this Saturday to rally against the "challenge of Christianisation" after allegations of proselytising by Christians.

Distrust between Muslims and Christians peaked when the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) raided the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in Petaling Jaya on August 3, claiming it was proselytising Muslims.

This came after repeated disputes between church and mosque, such as the legal battle over the the use of the word Allah to refer to the Christian god.

An initial court ruling allowing the Catholic Church to use the term Allah had led to places of worship being firebombed in January last year.

The government also buckled under pressure and ordered the release of Malay-language bibles seized before Sarawakians, half of whom are Christians, voted in the April 16 state polls.

Although DUMC has denied Jais' claims, Utusan Malaysia fanned the flames with allegations that Christian groups in Kuala Lumpur and Johor were actively trying to convert Muslims.

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