

**Saifuddin warns against mud-slinging in UPSI row**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**January 02, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 2 — Be careful not to make defamatory remarks, Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah warned today as the uproar over yesterday's scuffle between the police and student activists at a Perak varsity campus continue to grow.

"Undergraduates have a right to speak, but it has to be through appropriate ways. The police have a responsibility to keep the peace through certain ways. I am certain there is no enmity between the two," the deputy minister of Higher Education said in a statement.

He noted that various groups have issued a variety of statements and terms following a midnight clash between undergraduate demonstrators and the police at the Sultan Idris University of Education (UPSI) in Tanjung Malim on New Year's Day.

An estimated 60 undergraduates had assembled without a permit outside the campus gates to campaign for greater academic freedom and defied a police order to disperse, leading to 17 arrests.

One student, Muhammad Safwan Anang, was hospitalised after he lost consciousness in the scuffle.

Various social activist groups and opposition leaders have accused the police of brutality after the student activists took to social media to complain of being beaten by the police.

Perak police chief Datuk Mohd Shukri Dahlan denied extreme force had been used as alleged. He added that the injuries suffered by demonstrators were self-inflicted.

But a Tanjung Malim police officer known only as Fazli told The Malaysian Insider that scuffles happened in confrontations with the police and events went out of control.

"Those who are dissatisfied in the incident should step forward with their respective evidence. There are channels to voice their complaint, such as Suhakam," Saifuddin said, referring to the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia.

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Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/saifuddin-warns-against-mud-slinging-in-upsi-row/>