

MCA laments violence against journalists

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PETALING JAYA: Members of the media should never be subjected to any form of abuse or rough treatment, MCA Wanita secretary-general Senator Chew Lee Giok said here.

She said media personnel were only carrying out their duties and responsibilities, which is sharing truthful, first-hand information with the public.

"It is truly saddening and regretful that they were victims of violence during Saturday's rally," she said in a statement.

Chew said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein's visit to media personnel at the hospital demonstrated the Government's commitment in curbing violence against the press corps.

Meanwhile, in an online petition, editors, journalists, members and supporters of the journalism fraternity in Malaysia urged the Government and police to take firm measures to ensure the safety of journalists.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, they condemned the arrest of photojournalists, saying it was tantamount to censorship in preventing them from providing fair and accurate reports of the events.

In **GEORGE TOWN**, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng called for an independent investigation into the alleged violence against journalists and photographers.

"They (pressmen) were not there to demonstrate, they were there to cover the event," he said.

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