

Global Bersih wants action on Immigration D-G over alleged 'revoke passport' threat
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 30 — Election reform group Global Bersih is seething with fury over Datuk Alias Ahmad's reported remark to revoke the passports of Malaysians abroad found to have taken part in anti-government activities, accusing the Immigration director-general of threatening national unity besides ignorance of the law.

The election reform movement comprising Malaysians abroad wants the authorities to act on the Immigration's top official, whose alleged remark it said goes against the country's immigration law and makes a mockery of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's call for national reconciliation in the wake of the divisive May 5 polls.

"Global Bersih demands that the D-G immediately withdraws his recent statement that Immigration will revoke the passports of Malaysians abroad who undertake anti-government activities.

"Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, under whose direct control Immigration operates, must immediately and publicly chasten his director-general for intimidation, incompetence and ignorance of his own administrative reach," it said in a statement.

The group also told Malaysians abroad to "ignore such threats and keep in mind that it is their constitutional right to freely express their opinion on all matters, including the divisive state of politics and recently concluded poll."

The recently-ended 13th general election saw the Barisan Nasional returned to power in a simple majority of 133 seats in the 222-member Dewan Rakyat against the Pakatan Rakyat pact's 89 seats.

But opposition members and their supporters have cried foul and dispute the results and insist the victory is rightfully theirs as they won 51 per cent of the popular vote and lost out in the federal seats only due to electoral fraud and gerrymandering of the election boundaries.

Alias was reported to have said the Immigration Department was tracking Malaysians abroad including students who attempted to topple the government and bring down the country's image and warned that they faced stern action under section 8 of the Immigration Act 1959/1963.

"Malaysians who break the law and shame the country can be blacklisted, their passport can be cancelled between three and five years," he was quoted as telling Malay daily Berita Harian in its report dated May 27.

However, Alias had refuted he had made such a remark on his Twitter account, @KP_Immigration, on the same day.

"Its totally [sic] wrong reporting by BH reporter..sorry," he said, in response to a tweet post citing several lawyers as saying the Immigration director-general had no powers to revoke any Malaysian's passport.

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