

**DAP to take court action if overseas Malaysians blacklisted**  
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**By Syed Jaymal Zahiid**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 — The DAP will challenge any move to blacklist overseas Malaysians critical of the Barisan Nasional (BN) administration in court, party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said today.

According to news reports, Immigration Director-General Datuk Alias Ahmad has confirmed that the Immigration Department would revoke the passports of 6,564 Malaysians blacklisted for allegedly tarnishing the image of the country overseas.

“DAP will not stand idly by and watch Malaysians be persecuted and victimised merely for exercising their fundamental human rights of expressing their political beliefs.

“I will direct the head of DAP Legal team headed by DAP MP for Puchong Gobind Singh Deo to get DAP’s lawyers take up cases of any Malaysian whose passports were revoked because of their support for PR or their opposition to BN,” Lim (picture), who is also Penang Chief Minister, said in a statement today.

Following public uproar, Alias later said he would make further statement on the matter next week.

He had already turned down a meeting with poll reform group Bersih 2.0 steering committee member Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan yesterday after the renowned lawyer said she had wanted to seek clarification on the issue.

The immigration director-general had earlier said that there had been past legal precedents that allowed the government to cancel passports although the offences were crime-related and not political.

He also gave his assurance that the revocation will be done “justly”.

“This ‘reassurance’ is a mockery of the rights of Malaysians, especially when former Bar Council President and Bersih 2.0 co-chairperson Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan has pointed out that the Immigration Department does not have the right to do so, citing a 2009 Federal Court ruling that disapproved of the decision in 1979.

“In other words, any such attempt to revoke Malaysian passports who are overseas is unlawful,” Lim said.

The DAP is now calling on the Najib administration to state its position on the issue.

Lim added that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak must “reassure Malaysians that their rights will not be revoked simply for dissenting peacefully”.

“Such a threat is not only against natural justice, undemocratic and an act of political retribution but also goes against the very grain of national reconciliation that has been proposed by Najib himself,” the DAP leader said further.

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