

Memali incident shows how Dr Mahathir treated others under his rule, says opposition MP

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New revelations about the bloody police raid on Kampung Memali 23 years ago, by a former deputy prime minister, has shed light on the true character of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed and how the former prime minister treated those under him, said a PAS lawmaker.

Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad (pic) said Dr Mahathir's decision to let his then deputy Tun Musa Hitam take the blame for the police raid on the village, which resulted in 14 civilian and two police deaths, showed how he victimised his subordinates.

"This is the real character of Mahathir, who everyone regards as a great statesman. His actions have harmed our institutions and systems and have led us to where we are," Khalid told reporters after a forum at Kompleks Karangkrak in Shah Alam today.

It had been widely believed that Dr Mahathir had been visiting China when the raid occurred, thereby absolving him of the ultimate responsibility of ordering the police to use deadly force in the raid.

That belief also placed ultimate responsibility for the loss of lives on Musa.

However, two days ago, Musa revealed that Mahathir had been in the country when the raid happened, thereby implying that the latter knew about the details and scope of the raid.

Musa's revelations would spark further questions about the government's version of how and why the raid went wrong.

"This reflects the character of Dr Mahathir who will stoop to letting his deputy take the fall. This is the person that many in Malaysia look up to," said Khalid, who is also a PAS central committee member.

Those killed in the raid, which included religious teacher Ibrahim Mahmud, also known as Ibrahim Libya, and his family members, were all PAS members.

The Islamist party's image was tarnished following the raid as the government painted the victims and the villagers as religious militants who chose to clash with police when the security forces went to detain Ibrahim.

Hundreds were later rounded up, but freed subsequently, except for 36 individuals who were detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

PKR's Padang Serai MP N. Surendran said Dr Mahathir has to come clean on his role in the incident and urged the government to be transparent on what actually occurred during the siege on the village.

"Till today, we do not have a clear explanation of what happened in Memali and the use of the ISA on hundreds of people.

"The public have a right to know. Let them decide whether the government was right in its actions (in Memali)." – March 28, 2014.

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