

## **PAS sacks Mahmud, 2 others over militant activities**

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PAS has sacked another three of its members, who were believed to have joined militant movements in other countries. One of them, Dr Mahmud Ahmad, is a senior lecturer at Universiti Malaya (UM), who is also wanted by police.

The other two were Mohd Najib Husen or Abraham, 36, and Muhammad Joraime Awang Raime or Abu Nur, 39.

"All three have been dropped as PAS members in a central committee meeting on Sunday," PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali told The Malaysian Insider.

Prior to this, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar had announced that police were on the hunt for five more Malaysians involved with militant groups.

On July 2, Khalid had said that Mahmud was also known as Abu Hanzalah, 36. The lecturer in UM's Department of Akidah and Islamic Thought lived in Taman Selayang Baru, Batu Caves.

Also named were Najib, a stationery and photocopy shop owner in UM, who lived in Kota Damansara and Joraime, a Selayang Municipal Council employee who lived near Mahmud.

Two others identified were from Tawau, Sabah, namely Mohd Amin Baco, 31, from Kampung Titingan and Jeknal Adil or Jek, 30, from Kampung Kurnia Jaya.

Khalid had said that the five were identified following investigations on 19

militant members arrested by the Bukit Aman Counter-Terrorism Division since April 28.

Police believe they are hiding in the southern Philippines.

"Three of them are suspected to be involved in the recruitment and arrangement of militant members from this country to join the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isil, which is also known as Isis) in Syria," Khalid had said, in what is believed to be a reference to Mahmud and his two friends.

"Two more are Darul Islam Sabah members, who have now joined Abu Sayyaf in the southern Philippines," he said.

According to Mustafa, PAS received reports that the three members were on the police's wanted list.

"After going through their data and the reports, PAS central decided in a meeting yesterday to terminate their membership."

On May 11, PAS had dismissed the membership of Lotfi Ariffin, from Kedah, one of those who had joined the armed movement in Syria.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang in a July 11 statement said that PAS would not allow any of its members to join radical or armed groups in or outside the country.

Hadi said that PAS would not hesitate to take action against anyone found to be involved with radical groups, including removing them from the party.

"PAS is carefully examining the latest developments taking place in Iraq and Syria and ask our members, supporters and all the people to understand the current situation," he said in a statement.

Hadi said PAS had always supported a peaceful and democratic process. – July 14, 2014.

- See more at: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/pas-sacks-mahmud-2->

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