

Yusof Doesn't Fear After Exposing Wang Kelian's Syndicate Mastermind

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ALOR SETAR, June 17 (Bernama) - Although his personal safety and that of his family members are at risk after revealing the identity of "Yassin", the mastermind behind a human trafficking syndicate's transit camps in Bukit Wang Burma, Wang Kelian, Perlis, it does not scare Yusof Ali.

The Kedah Rohingya Society in Malaysia (RSM) deputy chairman said he was not afraid of them (syndicate members).

"I'm not afraid to die. They can beat me, threaten me, but I will keep on fighting against these agents (human trafficking syndicates)," he told Bernama, here, Wednesday.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) card holder said the danger that awaited him following the disclosure of "Yassin" was not important compared to the lives that could be saved.

Yusof said, if the exposure of "Yassin" could save Rohingya migrants from continuously being victims of human trafficking syndicates, he would continue to do so.

"My life is not important. What is more important is to eliminate these syndicates, from the mastermind, agents and to their runners," said Yusof, who has been living in Malaysia since 1986.

He admitted that syndicate agents and their runners including the ones working with "Yassin" were everywhere, including in Kedah, and were capable of doing something if they wanted to.

So far, he said, he and his family had not received any physical threats from these people who could be annoyed with his disclosure of "Yassin."

In an exclusive interview with Bernama last month, Yusof revealed that the Rohingya migrants detained at the transit camps in Wang Kelian were in a deplorable state and had been "bought" by a syndicate agent known as "Yassin".

He divulged that the illegals were kept in cages, and would later be sold to other agents at a higher price to reap profits.

According to Yusof, "Yassin" came from Myanmar and is in his mid-30s but lives in southern Thailand to be close to the syndicate's human trafficking operations he conducted.

Following the dismantling of trafficking syndicates by the Thai authorities and wide media

coverage, he is believed to have escaped and hiding in Myanmar.

Recently, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Thai authorities had handed over to Malaysia, some individuals believed to be the masterminds behind the human trafficking syndicates.

However, according to Zahid, "Yassin" was believed to be still at large and Malaysia had requested assistance from Bangkok to track and arrest him.

Yusof said he and his colleagues in Kedah RSM had a close relationship with the police and always cooperated by channelling information on crime involving Rohingya people.

Yusof said, most of his monthly income had been used to assist Rohingya migrants victimised by human trafficking syndicates.

"You can visit my house and see its condition, as there is no furniture nor appliances. I use my salary to help those who need help," he said.

Yusof said his house was also used as shelter to protect the victims who suffered severe injuries after being beaten up by the agents and their people for failing to settle their payments.

He said some of victims who were unable to walk or move after being badly assaulted, were left by the roadside by the syndicate gang members.

"My friends and I would bring them (the victims) home or to hospital for treatment. Some recovered after one or two months, while there were some others who died from their injuries," he said.

So far, he said, he had brought back five Rohingya victims who were badly injured by the syndicate members and left by the roadside.

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