

**Injured by cops, Bersih man struggles with joblessness**  
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A former contractor in a pest control company had to resign from his job after police damaged his left kneecap during the 2007 Bersih rally campaigning for electoral reform.

Aleyasak Hamid @ Hassan told the High Court today that he could no longer lift heavy things or climb high buildings.

"I am always in pain and uncomfortable as a result of the injury," he testified in his suit against the police and the government for unlawful arrest, detention and assault by FRU personnel during the assembly.

He said he suffered, among others, a broken leg, wounds, bruises, a swollen kneecap, nervous shock, mental anxiety and embarrassment during the incident. He was sent to the Kuala Lumpur Hospital for treatment the same day and had to undergo surgery on his left leg on November 12, 2007.

Aleyasak, 38, alleged that the defendants abused their power and violated his rights under the Federal Constitution by physically assaulting and intimidating him.

He said that he had to rely on a cane to walk soon after he was discharged from the hospital.

He said he went for several job interviews but his prospective employers declined to employ him after he revealed his injuries to them.

"Now I do food catering to support my family but the income is irregular," the father of four said when examined by his lawyer Latheefa Koya.

Aleyasak said his wife gave tuition to bring additional income.

"I am also sad because I am no longer physically active to meet the demand of the children," he added.

In his statement of claim, Aleyasak said the injuries were caused by Federal Reserve Unit and policemen.

"They attacked me and stepped on my knee until it broke. I asked them to help me but they insulted me and kicked me," he said.

He said he was left in the truck for half a hour before being taken to a police station and then the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

Aleyasak said his suit was filed almost three years after the incident as police did nothing to identify his assailants.

The Bersih rally five years ago aimed at calling for electoral reform attracted about 50,000 participants who gathered at several spots around the city in Kuala Lumpur before they attempted to march to Istana Negara to hand over a memorandum.

Police used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the protesters and several dozen were arrested before being released on bail.

Aleyasak claimed that the FRU did not issue any warning to his group that was reciting prayers at that time to disperse.

The government had attempted to strike out Aleyasak's suit on grounds that he had failed to name each and every individual FRU personnel who had assaulted him.

But, in 2011, the court ordered that a trial must be held to give Aleyasak the opportunity to prove his claims.

The government in its defence denied the assault. – January 7, 2015.

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