

Singapore Media Gives Wide Coverage On Malaysian Hostages Rescued From Abu Sayyaf

SINGAPORE, March 28 (Bernama) -- The Singapore media has given wide coverage on the release of five Malaysian hostages who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf militant group in the Philippines in July last year.

The Straits Times has placed a quarter-page photo of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak meeting with two of the five Malaysian nationals rescued.

The photo by FotoBernama, accompanied by a story titled "Five Malaysian hostages rescued from Abu Sayyaf", is on the newspaper's Asia page.

The photo comes with a caption "Sailors Abd Rahim Summas and Tayudin Anjut and their families meeting Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor at the Premier's residence yesterday. They were held by the Abu Sayyaf for almost a year."

The news about the rescue has also grabbed Berita Harian's attention which placed the news as the main item on its 'Dunia' page with a "Tiga lagi warga M'sia diculik Abu Sayyaf diselamatkan" headline.

A photo by the News Straits Times has been used with a caption "BERTEMU KELUARGA: Perdana Menteri Malaysia, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak dan isteri Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, bertanya khabar dengan mangsa culik Abu Sayyaf, Encik Abdul Rahim Summas dan Encik Tayudin Anjut di kediaman Perdana Menteri, pagi semalam."

Najib had on Monday morning met Tayudin, 46, and Abdul Rahim, 63, at his residence in Jalan Taman Duta in Kuala Lumpur.

Tayudin and Abdul Rahim were crew members of the tugboat, Serudong Tiga, who were kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf terrorists in the Dent Haven waters, Lahad Datu on July 18.

They were rescued by Philippine security forces in an operation in the south of the republic last Thursday and arrived at the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang last night.

Three other Malaysians, Fandy Bakran, 27, Mohd Jumadil Rahim, 24, and Mohd Ridzuan Ismail, 33, had also been rescued.

They were also crew members of the tugboat, Serudong Tiga.

Not only the print media, the online platforms TODAY and Channel NewsAsia have also given extensive coverage on the release.

With the release of the five men, Philippine military chief Eduardo Ano said on Monday that the Abu Sayyaf still had 20 foreign and seven Filipino hostages.

Together with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, Singapore is participating in successful joint patrols in the Malacca Straits.

Such strong cooperation could be applied in the Sulu Straits, Malaysia's Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein had said before.

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