

# PM: Give Malaysians in Guantanamo fair trial

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia wants a fair trial for the two Malaysians being held in Guantanamo Bay for alleged terrorist activities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he has instructed Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to get in touch with "our people" in Washington to find out more.

"It is important that the first thing that we do is enable them to get a fair trial since they are to be brought to court," he said yesterday after launching the *Al-Quran: The Sacred Art of Revelation* exhibition at the Islamic Arts Museum.

To a question, he said he was not really surprised to hear about the two Malaysians because there had been some cases where Malaysians "have somehow been involved in these kind of activities."

Foreign wire reports on Thursday had named two Malaysians together with 12 others being held in Guantana-

mo Bay in connection with al-Qaeda-related terrorist activities.

The two are Mohammed Nazir Lep, better known as Lillie; and Mohd Farik Amin, also known as Zubair.

The reports stated that Mohammed Nazir had allegedly helped transfer al-Qaeda funds for a 2003 car bombing at a hotel in Jakarta that killed 12.

Mohd Farik had allegedly assisted Jemaah Islamiah (JI) in the planned attacks, and was also believed to have been tapped as a suicide bomber for an al-Qaeda attack in Los Angeles.

Asked whether he was worried about a trend where young Malaysians were now joining militant groups, Abdullah said he did not see such a trend.

"This has happened because of the association of (some) of our young people with some religious education, particularly that given to them in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most of those who are related to the JI net-

work or believe in the JI philosophy have this kind of background," he said.

Asked about the suggestion by Amnesty International for Malaysia to seek a guarantee from the United States on the security and safety of the two Malaysians, Abdullah said:

"We want to make sure not only their safety and security is guaranteed, but also that they are given a fair trial."

In **Kangar**, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government was waiting for details on the two Malaysians who have been moved from secret CIA prisons to Guantanamo Bay for trials.

He said the Government was aware of their movement.

"We are now getting full details on them. I will also get the views of the Attorney-General's Chambers and Foreign Ministry on the matter," he told reporters after opening the Arau Umno delegates meeting at Dewan 2020 here yesterday.