

# Human rights group praises Abdullah for reforms

The Star - 24/6/2006

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Human rights group Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram) has commended Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the reforms that he had made in his two years as Prime Minister.

These included democratic reforms, the combating of corruption and promoting transparency, and accountability in governance.

Suaram said, however, there could still be improvements in issues of civil and political rights.

Suaram executive director Yap Swee Seng said the lack of political will in carrying out the reforms was the reason that human rights in the country

had not improved.

"It is not enough to merely set up independent commissions to improve human rights protection and promotion," he said, summarising the Suaram Human Rights Report 2005 released here yesterday.

"Their recommendations are meaningless if not translated into tangible laws."

Yap said that last year the number of Internal Security Act arrests had fallen from 45 to 13.

However, he added, there were eight extension orders against alleged members of the KMM, who were entering their fifth year of detention.