

November 14, 1998

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia is deeply concerned about the increasing cases of threats and attacks on journalists in carrying out their professional duties.

We view the latest incident on Thursday in which two Utusan Melayu photographers had been stopped and threatened by a group of people after the two had taken pictures of one Dr Ristina Majid's house in Bangsar.

Dr Ristina is a witness in the trial of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

NUJ views the high-handed action by the group in seizing the films of the two photographers and challenging them to a fight as extremely disturbing and urges the authorities to investigate the matter.

We reiterate that NUJ will not tolerate or condone any threats or acts of violence and gangsterism against journalists who were only carrying out their professional responsibilities.

The use of violence against the media will not help the aggressors in achieving anything positive but instead exacerbate the situation.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

NORILA MD DAUD
President