

November 6, 2000

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia regrets the attack on journalists, preventing them from carrying out their professional duties.

The latest incident involves attacks by rioters on one Utusan Malaysia photographer and journalists from Reuters and Berita Harian over the illegal mass rally by certain parties at Jalan Kebun, Klang on Sunday evening, November 5, 2000.

The attacks caused injuries to the journalists while the camera of the photographer was confiscated by the rioters.

The Media play an important role in collecting information so as to disseminate them to the public and are supposed to base their reports without fear, prejudice or favour.

The recent incident is disturbing and it obstructs journalists from carrying out their professional duties.

We view this matter seriously as it may cause journalists to operate under the atmosphere of fear and calls upon the authorities to take immediate action against the unruly attackers who take the law into their own hands.

NUJ further urges journalists who have been attacked, threatened or harassed to lodge a police report immediately.

NUJ members who are involved in covering the any mass gatherings are advised to abide by instructions issued by police personnel at the scene to ensure orderly coverage of the events.

The Union also urges the media owners to take concrete and positive steps to ensure the safety of their journalists.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary