

For immediate release: 4 October 2016

Police Must Investigate, Arrest and Charge Jamal Md Yunus and other Perpetrators of Violence

We, the undersigned organizations, call on the Inspector General of Police to immediately investigate, arrest and charge the head of UMNO Sungai Besar Division Chief, Jamal Md Yunus and other perpetrators of violence for criminal intimidation and violence against the Bersih 5 convoy participants on October 1st to uphold the rule of law in this country.

In the first incident, the red shirt supporters were reportedly by Bersih 2.0 as having tailed the Bersih 5 convoy in Lumut, pulling flags from convoy vehicles, kicking the cars and punching their vehicles' side mirrors.

In the second incident, when the Bersih 5 convoy reaching Teluk Intan, they were blocked by red shirt thugs led by Jamal Md Yunus. Bersih steering committee member Jay Jay Denis, who was there, said that Jamal tried to yank the banner being carried by three Bersih's participants and he landed a blow on the guy in the center. A few Bersih participants were hurt during the scuffle that ensued.

We strongly condemn such thuggish and violent actions by Jamal Md Yunus and his supporters. They behaved like gangster as if they were above the law and even the police could not touch them.

We wish to record our gratitude and appreciation to the police in other areas that have done their job professionally by maintaining order and facilitate the peaceful convoy to proceed without any problem. We are however disappointed with the police in Lumut and Teluk Intan who did nothing to prevent the violent acts of the red shirts from taking place in those two cities despite being present at the location and witnessing the two incidents. Why the police present did not apprehend the thugs on the spot?

We are shocked that Jamal Md Yunus and other perpetrators of violence are still able to walk free in the country after such violent aggression in broad daylight with so many witnesses and video recording viraling online. Where is the Inspector General of Police who immediately tweeted orders to his men to make arrest when someone merely peacefully posting an opinion on issues of public interest online?

Jamal Md Yunus and his supporters are entitled to their opinion and may express disagreement with Bersih 5 convoy as this is their constitutional right. However, they can only do so in a peaceful manner and not resorting violence. Jamal Md Yunus is clearly in breach of the law by harming others physically and he should be arrested by now.

One must question if Jamal Md Yunus is getting political endorsement for such actions from the power-that-be if no action is criminal charges is pressed against him.

The failure of the IGP in arresting and prosecuting Jamal Md Yunus will unfortunately imply that Malaysia is now ruled by thugs instead of ruled by law.

This statement is endorsed by the following civil society organisations:

1. All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
2. Anak Muda Sarawak (AMS)
3. Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)
4. Angkatan Warga Aman Malaysia (WargaAMAN)
5. ENGAGE
6. The Federation & Alumni Associations Taiwan University, Malaysia (FAATUM)
7. JIHAD for JUSTICE
8. Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS)
9. Kumpulan Aktivis Mahasiswa Independen (KAMI)
10. Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH)
11. Komuniti Muslim Universal (KMU)
12. LLG Cultural Development Center (LLG)
13. Majlis Perundingan Malaysian Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh, dan Tao (MCCBCHST)
14. Malaysian Indians Progressive Association (MIPAS)
15. Malaysian Indians Transformation Action Team (MITRA)
16. Muslim Professionals Forum (MPF)
17. National Indian Rights Action Team (NIAT)
18. Negeri Sembilan Chinese Assembly Hall (NSCAH)
19. Oriental Hearts and Mind Study Institute (OHMSI)
20. Persatuan Aliran Kesedaran Negara (Aliran)
21. Pertubuhan Ikram Malaysia (IKRAM)
22. Persatuan Masyarakat Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan (PERMAS)
23. Persatuan Rapat Malaysia (RAPAT)
24. Proham
25. Projek Dialog
26. Pusat Komus (KOMAS)
27. Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)
28. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
29. Tindak Malaysia
30. United Chinese School Alumni Associations of Malaysia (UCSAAM)
31. We Are Caring Malaysians
32. World Tamil Muslim Federation