

For immediate release

24 October 2016

Civil Society Condemns Death Threats Against Bersih 2.0 Leaders

We, the undersigned organizations, are extremely appalled and strongly condemn the death threats against the chairperson of Bersih 2.0, Maria Chin and her three children, former Chair of Bersih 2.0 and current president of National Human Rights Society, Ambiga Sreenevasan and Bersih 2.0 staff, Mandeep Singh. Following these threats on October 18, the car of one of Maria's sons was splashed with red paint and chicken blood on October 20.

These deplorable death threats were received by Maria Chin via whatsapp messages in which the faces of all those named above were superimposed next to a person holding a knife over their heads.

Since the organizers launched the nationwide convoys to mobilize support for Bersih 5 rally on November 19, threats and attacks have been escalating. These came immediately after a series of attacks by red shirted thugs led by UMNO's Sungai Besar division chief Jamal Md Yunus after he failed to stop the Bersih convoys. The sequence of events suggests a systematic and coordinated plan to stop Bersih 2.0 through physical violence culminating in death threats to instill fear in Bersih leaders and staff and the general public.

More alarming is the feeble response from the Inspector General of Police on the declaration of "all-out war against Bersih 2.0" by Jamal Md Yunus on October 20. His description of Jamal Md Yunus's declaration as merely "war of words" is totally unprofessional in the absence of any form of investigation. The fact that Jamal Md Yunus made his war cry to stop Bersih 2.0 soon after his remand demonstrates his arrogance and little respect of the law and is enough evidence to implicate him and his red shirt thugs.

The undersigned organizations:

1. Demand the Inspector General of Police immediately investigate these incidents and swiftly apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice.
2. Demand the police investigate and apprehend the master mind behind the anti-Bersih attacks.
3. Urge Prime Minister Najib Razak to strongly condemn these threats. His deafening silence and the IGP's inaction is encouraging the red shirted thugs to be more hostile and violent.
4. and the rakyat holds the Prime Minister and IGP accountable should any untoward incident befall any Bersih 2.0 leaders and supporters.

The rakyat is closely watching.

Endorsed by:

1. Aliran
2. Anak Malaysia Sarawak (AMS)
3. Community Development Center (CDC)
4. ENGAGE
5. Islamic Renaissance Front (IRF)
6. Jaringan Rakyat Tertindas (JERIT)
7. JIHAD for JUSTICE (J4J)
8. Malaysians Against Death Penalty & Torture (MADPET)
9. Muslim Professional s Forum (MPF)
10. National Indian Rights Action Team (NIAT)
11. ONE RACE-HUMAN RACE
12. Oriental Hearts and Mind Study Institute (OHMSI)
13. Penang Tamil Muslim Development Association (PELITA)
14. Pusat Komus
15. Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)
16. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
17. Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy
18. We are Malaysians
19. Malaysia 4 Malaysians
20. Women's Aid Organization (WAO)
21. Writers Alliance for Media Independence (WAMI)