

Civil Society Call for the Immediate Release of TMI Chief Editor and Publisher

2 April 2015

We, the following civil society organisation calls upon the Police to respect Malaysians' right to be informed on the implementation of Kelantan Syariah Criminal Code (SCC), which has far reaching implications to the entire country. The Police's crackdown of The Malaysian Insider (TMI) is a shameful act to create fear and silence discourse.

We call for the immediate release of TMI Chief Editor Jahabar Sadiq and Publisher Ho Kay Tat, a drop of any planned charges of all TMI personnel and an end to all harassment to the portal.

Even if the TMI has allegedly misreported the Conference of Rulers' position on the SCC, a denial and clarification by the keeper of the royal seal -- which was widely reported -- is sufficient.

We hold that the TMI is merely serving public interest by finding out and reporting what transpired in the Conference of Rulers meeting with regard to a matter of national interest. Their mistake - due to inavailability of official news - should not be punished.

Issued by the following Civil Society Organisations:

1. ENGAGE
2. Tamil Foundation Malaysia (TF)
3. Writers' Alliance for Media Independence (WAMI)