

October 21, 1996

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia regrets that journalists in the country have been prevented from carrying out their professional duties.

The latest incident involves the barring of journalists from covering the awards ceremony in conjunction with the 71st birthday of Malacca's Yang diPertua Negeri last Saturday.

The order from the Malacca State Secretary's office barring journalists from covering the event is disturbing and obstructs journalists from carrying out their professional duties.

We hope Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani would take appropriate action to resolve the matter as the incident affects the close relationship between the Malacca State Government and the journalistic fraternity.

At the same time, NUJ regrets that Pressmen from the New Straits Times, The Malay Mail and Utusan Malaysia have been barred from covering Premier League matches in Sabah and Pahang.

NUJ calls on the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) to take the necessary action to ensure that journalists are able to cover the development of football in the country without impediment.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

OON EE SENG
General Secretary