

December 8, 1998

To: All News Editors

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Executive Council of the National Union of Journalists Malaysia today held a meeting with Kuala Lumpur Chief Police Officer Datuk Kamaruddin Ali to discuss matters pertaining to the safety of journalists involved in the coverage of street demonstrations.

The Union was represented by its President Norila Mohd Daud, General Secretary Hong Boon How, General Treasurer Hayat Sueet, Assistant General Treasurer Cheong Heng Weng and Council Members Alex Choong and K. Kannan.

Also present at the meeting held at Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen Kuala Lumpur were City Deputy Chief Police Officer SAC1 Foong Yee, City Special Branch Chief SAC2 Salamuddin Haji Falizan and City Deputy CID Chief ACP Hadi Ho.

The Union had requested for the meeting with the police after several incidents last month where reporters and photographers had been harassed and attacked during "reformasi" demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur.

During the 90 minute meeting today, the police and the Union discussed guidelines for reporters and photographers while covering street demonstrations.

Among the suggestions made by the police were that journalists wear their name tags, stay behind the police line and follow instructions issued by field police officers at the scene.

Apart from lodging official police reports, Datuk Kamaruddin also advised NUJ Executive Council to write officially to him if any NUJ members were attacked or harassed while carrying out their professional duties.

On the Union side, NUJ President Norila Mohd Daud thanked the police for extending their co-operation and professional courtesy towards journalists.

The Union also look forward to holding more meetings with the police with the aim of forging closer ties and greater understanding between the Media fraternity and the police force.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

HONG BOON HOW  
General Secretary