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To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia today held a meeting with the Inspector General of Police, Tan Sri Norian Mai at Bukit Aman to discuss matters pertaining to the alleged police harassment on reporters and photographers covering the Jalan Kebun mass gathering on Nov 5, 2000.

The Union was represented by its President Norila Mohd Daud (Utusan Malaysia), Vice Presidents Cheah Kee Ling (Nanyang Siang Pau) and Rupa Damodaran (NST), General Secretary Hong Boon How (The Star), Deputy General Secretary Tony Emmanuel (NST), General Treasurer Hayat Sueet (Utusan Malaysia) and Assistant General Treasurer Chin Sung Chew (Sin Chew Jit Poh).

Also present at the meeting were Internal Security and Public Order Director Datuk Hamid Mustapha and CID Director Datuk Yaacob Amin.

During the meeting today, both parties exchanged views on how they could work together to avoid future incidents.

Among the suggestions made by Tan Sri Norian were that reporters and photographers covering street demonstrations wear press tags and vests bearing the names of their media organisations to enable easy identification by the police. He said this would enable police to accord assistance and protection to the pressmen on duty.

He also expressed concern over an incident where a photographer claimed that his camera was confiscated and his film removed by an FRU personnel during the Jalan Kebun incident.

Norian said the investigation into the alleged incident involving the photographer was still on-going.

He also confirmed that police are not allowed to confiscate films and cameras of photographers on duty.

On the Union side, NUJ President Norila Mohd Daud emphasized the importance of mutual respect between police and journalists in carrying out their professional duties.

The Union also looks 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