

January 3, 2002

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia would like to express its regret over the Sun Media Corp Sdn Bhd's decision to maintain the suspension on journalist R. Manirajan and photographer Anita Md Nasir over the December 25 article alleging a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister and his Deputy.

We regret the company's contention which seems to indicate that being suspended on full pay should not cause emotional stress to both of them.

The company must appreciate that being on the job itself contributes to the happy state of mind of a journalist.

As the company is aware, the prime obligation of any employer is to ensure that the employee is given the duties which he or she was employed for in the first place.

The whole tone of the company's contention appears to us to be a prejudgment of the matter.

As such, we strongly urge the company to restore our two journalists to their normal duties as we do not see how this can prejudice the company's further investigations, **if any**.

On Behalf of the Executive Council,

HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary