

May 3, 2005

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In commemoration of the International Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2005, the National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM) reiterates its call for the Government to replace its outdated laws in the country that are stifling the growth of press freedom.

The NUJ Malaysia feels that the Government should accord greater freedom to the local media and allow it to play a more responsible role in ensuring a transparent and credible administration.

The enactment of a Freedom of Information Act to replace the Official Secrets Act (OSA) can play in improving the flow of information between Government agencies and the media/members of the public.

The OSA has curbed the growth of investigative journalism in Malaysia, often resulting in mild reporting of issues concerning public interest.

We are concerned about this unhealthy media situation in Malaysia, as the local media will gradually lose its respect from the public.

On behalf of the Executive Council

NORILA MOHD DAUD
President