

Sept 22, 1995

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia is alarmed that death threats have been made against The Sun reporter Selvi Gopal over an article she wrote quoting Universiti Malaya Prof Dr K. Thilagavathy.

NUJ has advised the reporter concerned to file a police report against those who made the death threats.

NUJ will not tolerate or condone any threats or acts of violence against journalists.

At the same time, NUJ takes exception to the language used by MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu on The Sun reporter.

We regret that the Datuk Seri chose to call The Sun reporter "fools of the highest order".

The words used by Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu is unbecoming of a veteran politician.

Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu should understand that The Sun reporter is merely doing her job without any malice in mind.

If Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu is unhappy with the report, he has the right to make clarifications and expose his mind.

However, the senior politician should refrain from using abusive language, especially on journalists, which would only exacerbate the situation and harm his own credibility.

We expect senior politicians to be matured and rationale in their thinking and not make emotional outbursts that would harm their relationship with the Press.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

OON EE SENG
General Secretary