

October 26, 1998

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia regrets over the attack on journalists, preventing them from carrying out their professional duties.

The latest incident involves attacks by rioters on three Utusan editors over the Kampung Baru riots on Sunday morning, damaging their vehicle and with the intention of causing the journalists serious injuries.

The Media play an important role in collecting information so as to disseminate them to the public and are supposed to base their reports without fear, prejudice or favour. The recent incident is disturbing and it obstructs journalists from carrying out their professional duties.

We view this matter seriously as it may cause journalists to operate under the atmosphere of fear and calls upon the authorities to take immediate action against the unruly attackers who take the law into their own hands.

NUJ further urges journalists who have been attacked, threatened or harassed to lodge a police report immediately.

NUJ members who are involved in covering the riots are advised to take necessary precautions as not to endanger their lives and profession.

The Union also urges the media owners to safeguard the welfare of journalists on this matter.

On behalf of the NUJ Executive Council,

HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary