

Nov 8, 2000

To: All News Editors

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) has expressed concern over the high-handed action of several police personnel against an Utusan Malaysia photographer during an illegal assembly in Jalan Kebun, Klang on Sunday.

During the incident, the photographer was forced to hand over his Canon EOS-1 camera to several Federal Reserve Unit (FRU) personnel who later damaged the camera by pulling out the film.

The Union feels that such high-handed action was unnecessary especially when the photographer who was on official duty, had earlier identified himself and obtained clearance to take photographs from other police personnel at the scene.

The photographer has since lodged a report at the Klang District Police Headquarters.

We also regret that several other journalists and photographers were harassed by the police while they were performing their professional duties in covering Sunday's illegal assembly.

As such, we urge the Inspector-General of Police to conduct an immediate investigation into this matter and take the necessary step to prevent similar harassment from repeating in the future.

On behalf of the Executive Council,

HONG BOON HOW
General Secretary