

Jan 11, 2002

To all news editors

**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THE National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJ) deeply regrets the decision of Sun Media Corp Sdn Bhd to implement a staff retrenchment exercise without holding prior consultation with the union.

We also regret that the company has targeted the key officials of the NUJ-Sun branch committee in the retrenchment exercise.

With the retrenchment of the NUJ-Sun branch chairman K. Kannan, branch secretary P. Vijian, Branch assistant secretary Claudia Theophilus and other committee members, the NUJ's trade union movement in the SUN has been severely crippled.

We feel that such tactic in undermining the trade union movement is uncalled for and tantamount to union busting.

The union calls for the Human Resources Ministry to immediately intervene in this matter which will set an unhealthy precedent for the country's union movement.

The company's move in implementing the retrenchment exercise is most untimely especially when the issue concerning the company's non-payment of the two-months contractual bonus for 2001 is still pending and not resolved yet.

The matter is further aggravated as the Chinese New Year is about a month away and workers would incur additional expenses.

We call upon the company to suspend the retrenchment exercise until the company had held discussions with the union.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

HONG BOON HOW  
General Secretary