

11 January, 2009

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJ) expresses regret over the assault and arrest by Auxillary police on Hairul Nizam Baharin, a photographer with Bernama on Sunday.

Hairul Nizam was assigned to take pictures at the newly opened Integrated Transportation Terminal in Bandar Tasik Selatan.

The photographer was merely carrying out his professional duty and there was no reason for the auxillary policemen to demand Hairul to identify himself as the place is not a security zone.

The auxillary policemen who are said to have assaulted Hairul Nizam were violent as they punched his face and back and there were injuries on his wrist due to the handcuffs.

It appears that the auxillary policemen has resorted to violence by assaulting and thereby committing an offence.

NUJ also feels there is also a wrongful arrest because the photographer was handcuffed and brought to a nearby police station. However he was ordered to be released immediately by the police.

It was clear that Hairul Nizam had not committed any offence including trespass.

The NUJ calls upon the authorities to exercise restraint while carrying out their duty especially when media fraternity are also there to perform their responsibility to their readers and viewers.

Hairul Nizam had since lodged a police report at Jalan Tun Razak police station.

On behalf of the Executive Council,



Ha'ta Wahari
President