

2nd MARCH, 2016

TO: THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MALAYSIA

MEMORANDUM - NUJ'S STAND ON JOURNALISTS' RIGHTS

1. Request a consideration so as not to interfere with the duties of the media so as not to violate journalistic ethics in protecting the source.
2. A Concern may arise on the circumstances which can cause discomfort and chaos in the country with this issue, in trying to change the norms that have been accepted and practiced in harmony in our society where media acts as a link and the main disseminator of information.
3. It is feared that this will give a bad and wrong image for the government and its royal institution in which the government expects and encourages the media as the main channel presenters from government to the people.
4. The action would be seen as a form of sabotage by the government by threatening journalists to life imprisonment and 10 strokes of the cane that can encourage and intimidate journalists to avoid or not write about the government because at any moment the media can be accused of any leaked information.
5. Meddling and disrupting business and affairs of journalism, not being under his official duties. the AG must direct and can interfere solely with the legislation but not on journalistic professionalism. Just as the AG can have the power to interfere with the laws concerning laws on health issues but cannot interfere with the expertise of a doctor.
6. The focus of action must be against the offense on divulging information or information that has been leaked, not to take action against journalists who do not know whether the information communicated is the source of leaked information or not. Additionally, criminals who allegedly leaked information to journalists should be the focus and not the reporter who reported it. These threats can also spread fear among journalists to prevent them from uncovering and reporting criminal cases.
7. The media does not promote nor protect any acts of misconduct, fraud, corruption and crime and does not indoctrinate readers to accept that which is false to be true.
8. Ensuring compliance with journalistic ethics among all online, print and broadcast media practitioners, by allowing them to become members of the union while bloggers cannot be recognized as a journalist.
9. To advance the NUJ as a professional journalistic body to ensure that all media practitioners abide by the auspices of the union guidelines via the Union's journalistic code of ethics and professional conduct completely.
10. Any online, print or broadcast journalist who does not affiliate to the NUJ and is found to violate journalistic ethics as specified by the union could be charged under the ambit of the law.

The NUJ Executive Council