



LAWASIA
THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Founded in 1966

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LAWASIA CRITICAL OF ISA ARRESTS IN MALAYSIA

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, is seriously concerned by the recent arrests in Kuala Lumpur of Raja Petra Kamaruddin, MP Teresa Kok and Ms Tan Hoon Cheng under the draconian *Internal Security Act 1960* (ISA) which allows for detention without trial.

LAWASIA notes that no clear grounds have been given for the arrest of the three persons and in any event the detention of a person without trial cannot be justified. LAWASIA is alarmed by the heavy-handed and authoritarian actions of the Malaysian police in dealing with their fellow citizens. LAWASIA adheres to the basic principle that no one should be detained without trial for an indefinite period and that anyone detained should have the right to legal representation and to a fair trial failing which the person should be released. The bypassing of the judicial process and arbitrary detention are clear violations of the rule of law.

LAWASIA, noting that Ms Tan Hoon Cheng was released within 24 hours of her arrest calls on the Malaysian authorities to release Raja Petra Kamaruddin and MP Teresa Kok immediately. In doing so, LAWASIA affirms its strong support for the growing number of calls inside and outside Malaysia for the abolition of the ISA.

MAH Weng Kwai
PRESIDENT

September 17, 2008