



LAWASIA RECORDS SERIOUS CONCERN AT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANWAR AND KARPAL SINGH CASES IN MALAYSIA

LAWASIA was deeply concerned to learn of the undue haste with which the recent appeal in the matter of sodomy charges against Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim concluded last Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

LAWASIA records its concern for the way in which the administration of justice and the rule of law in Malaysia will be perceived both nationally and internationally as a result of how this matter has played out, noting the views of the International Commission of Jurists that: *This decision certainly casts doubts on the independence and impartiality of the Malaysian judiciary and tarnishes the reputation of the country's legal system.*

LAWASIA observes that fellow Malaysian opposition leader, Karpal Singh, has also been sentenced on charges of sedition brought against him which may see him unable to continue in his parliamentary role.

It has expressed its concern in this matter, noting that the *Sedition Act 1948* under which Mr Singh was charged was already slated by the government for repeal.

That Anwar was charged under the little-used *Article 377B* of the *Malaysian Penal Code*, which prohibits consensual same-sex sexual conduct against international norms and human rights is of further concern.

LAWASIA is accordingly cautious in accepting that the pursuit of justice is a prime motivator in these prosecutions. It fears for the future of the rule of law in Malaysia under circumstances that give an appearance that outmoded provisions in the legal system may be used as a tool to hinder the democratic processes to which the Malaysian people have a right.

For further information and comment, see the statement issued by the President of the Malaysian Bar:

LINK - [Statement - President of the Malaysian Bar](#)

Isomi Suzuki

PRESIDENT

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