



**LAWASIA**  
THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*Founded in 1966*

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August 23, 2006

Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi  
Prime Minister of Malaysia  
Ketua Setiausaha Sulit Kepada Perdana Menteri  
Pejabat Perdana Menteri  
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Dear Prime Minister

I write to you in my capacity as president of LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific. Our organisation comprises the peak legal bodies of 23 nations of Asia and the Pacific, including the Bar Council Malaysia, and numerous individual members drawn from the judiciary and the practising profession of the region.

It has been drawn to LAWASIA's attention that serious threats of violence and death have been made against lawyers involved in the case of Lina Joy, which is pending judgment before the Malaysian Federal Court. In particular, we note with considerable concern that material intimating death threats against Malaysian lawyer, Mr Malik Imtiaz has been circulated.

It is LAWASIA's understanding that these threats are under investigation by Malaysian police. We are encouraged that authorities are taking prompt action in this respect and hope this will have immediate and effective results.

However, as an organisation representing lawyers, we continue to hold serious concern for the safety of our colleagues in light of these threats.

*The Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* as adopted by the United Nations in 1990, specifically state that:

*17. Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.*

*18. Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.*

I write, then, to urge you as Prime Minister of Malaysia, to see that all possible measures to conform to these universally-agreed principles are undertaken with urgency and efficacy. We ask you to ensure that the safety of these lawyers is guaranteed and that their ability to undertake their duties as officers of the court is not undermined or compromised in any way by threats of violence against them.

Yours sincerely

Jung Hoon Lee (Mr)  
**PRESIDENT**