

PRESS STATEMENT

22nd July 2011

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) calls on the Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs to immediately release Dr Jeyakumar Michael Devaraj who has been detained under the Emergency Ordinance since 2nd July 2011.

Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj is a Life Member of MMA, an organisation with over 13,000 members from the medical profession. Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj has been an active member of the MMA for over 20 years and every one of our members who has interacted with him would testify to his gentle, peaceful and humble nature, and the philosophy that he has always followed – service to the people, especially the poor and less privileged, often at great personal sacrifice.

During the past few weeks, the MMA has received numerous phone calls, emails and messages from many of our members expressing their concern and distress about Dr Jeyakumar's arrest and continued detention under the Emergency Ordinance. It has been four weeks since he was arrested, and during this time he has had to be taken to hospital twice. We are very concerned about his health, which may be adversely affected by the conditions of his detention.

We are also in receipt of a copy of a letter sent to the Prime Minister of Malaysia from the President-elect of the World Medical Association, calling for Malaysia

“to respect international fair trial standards and immediately release all activists or charge them with a recognizable criminal offence, drop unfounded charges, and respect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly” and urging him “to ensure that the detainees are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated and more generally that they are treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings, as stated in international principles for the treatment of prisoners.”

The MMA fully supports the call of the WMA and we call for the immediate release of Dr Jeyakumar Devaraj and the other 5 PSM members who were arrested with him, or charge them in open court so that they may have the chance to defend themselves.



Dr Mary Suma Cardosa
President
Malaysian Medical Association