

Gertak chose THAT day, of all days in Malaysian history, for their rally at Gong Badak, Terengganu. A rally to raise 'issues affecting the Malays', they said. Odd, and so very mischievous. It raised tensions and fears among the community and was eventually pressured to be called off by the PM. Clearly, some sectors in society believe in perpetuating ethnic differences. Enter the wonders of Facebook and some creative heads. One cheeky idea was 'May 13 Interracial Hook-up Day'. U-JEAN, who came up with the initiative, recounts her thoughts and shares her perspective.



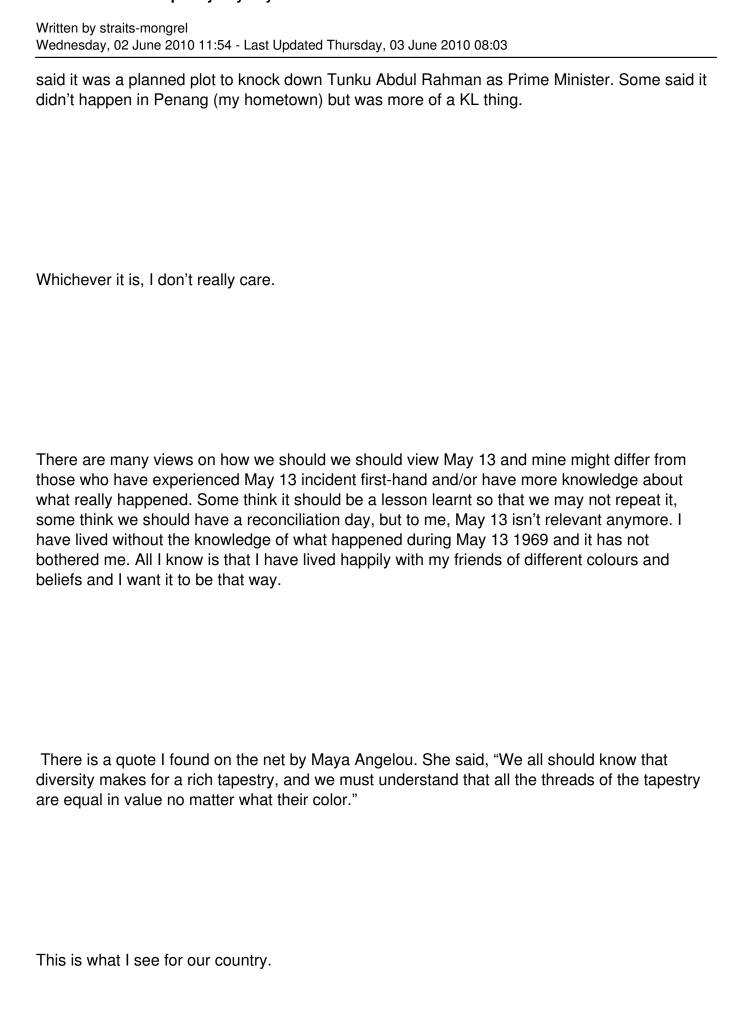
DAY OF PEACE, REASON, FREEDOM

TWO days before May 13 2010, I read about the Gong Badak rally. For those not acquainted with what was supposed to happen, there was a rally themed "Malays Arise". Organised by Gerakan Kebangkitan Rakyat (GERTAK) and the Terengganu Integrity Institute with the aim to unite Malays, it expected 10,000 attendees from 45 Malay non-governmental organizations but was cancelled later on after being advised by Prime Minister Najib.

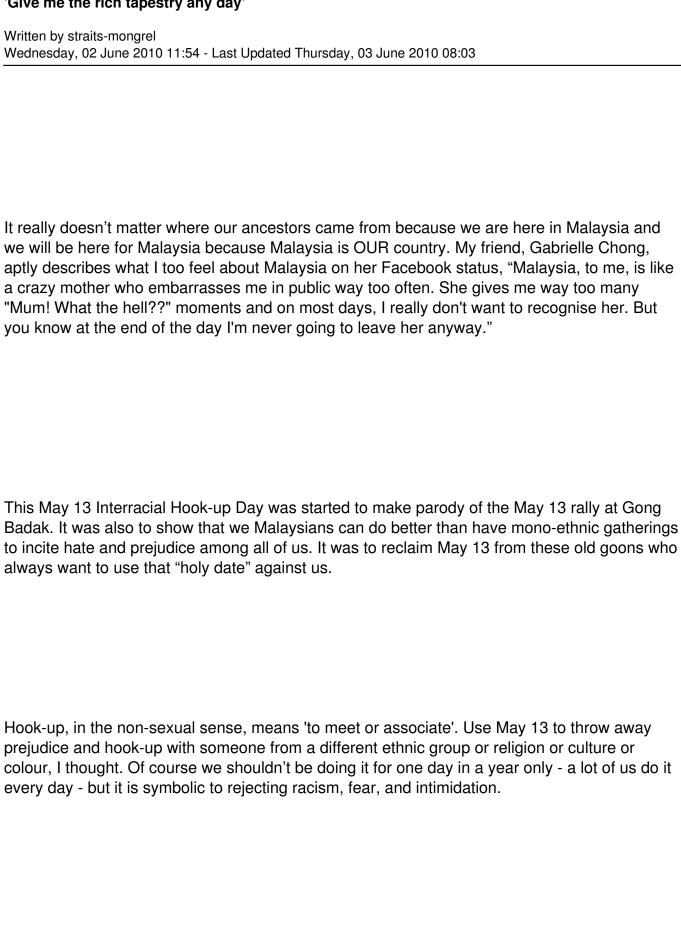
I was upset to learn about the event. After more than 50 years of independence, we are still talking about unity issues. We are still arguing about who should have more rights. And 41 years after the May 13 incident, people still want to use the incident to silence us and scare us into cowardice.

Here's my personal view on May 13: I am of a generation born many, many years after May 13 1969. I did not go through May 13 and I have been denied of my right to know about the history of my country. In school, we learn that the Chinese and Malays were fighting. There were burning of cars and houses and people died. Some people told me that the Chinese community had a celebration and the Malays weren't happy about it and started throwing stones. Some

'Give me the rich tapestry any day'



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Like hooking up with people of different backgrounds, we should also be rejecting racism,

inequality, and intimidation every day.

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'Give me the rich tapestry any day'

Written by straits-mongrel Wednesday, 02 June 2010 11:54 - Last Updated Thursday, 03 June 2010 08:03

NOTE:

Melayu Bangkit has been rescheduled for <u>June 14</u>. The Star reports: 'Non-Malays could join the event but they had to send a letter to the organiser.'