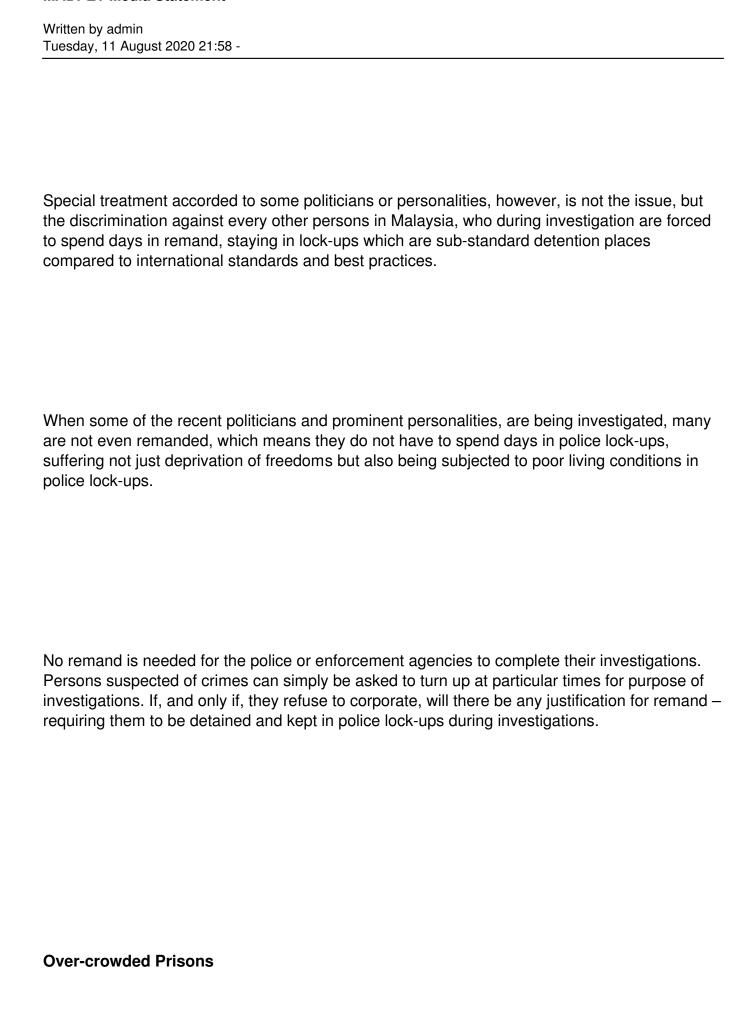


accorded to others prominent persons like the former premier Najib Razak.



Written by admin
Tuesday, 11 August 2020 21:58 -

Malaysian Prisons Department Deputy Director-general (Security and Correctional) Datuk Alzafry Mohamed Alnassif Mohamed Adahan, was recently reported saying that there are currently '68,000 prison inmates are currently housed in 42 prisons nationwide...' and that this '...number exceeded the prescribed capacity of 52,000... "The number consists of 54,508 locals and 14,095 foreigners. Occupancy is increasing and if you follow the trend, the number will not decrease," he said...' (Sun Daily, 8/8/2020)

The then Minister responsible under the previous PH government, Datuk Liew Vui Keong also talked about prison overcrowding. 'Speaking on the severity of prison overcrowding here, Liew noted that one prison made prisoners sleep in shifts to mitigate....This was due to lack of beds for a 10-person cell housing 20 prisoners, forcing them to take turns with 10 to stand while the other 10 sleep, he said.'(Malay Mail, 9/3/2019). At time, it was said that '...Malaysia could only accommodate a maximum of 45,000 prisoners, but said the current number of prisoners has reached over 66,000...'

Besides, the issue of human rights violations, the other concern is the financial implications to Malaysians. In 2019, the then Minister said that the '...daily cost for a prisoner ranges from RM38 to RM41,...'. This means that the minimum daily cost involved for the 65,222 prisoners would be at least over RM2.4 million...'. Likewise, Malaysians will be paying when persons are remanded in lock-ups for the purpose of investigations.

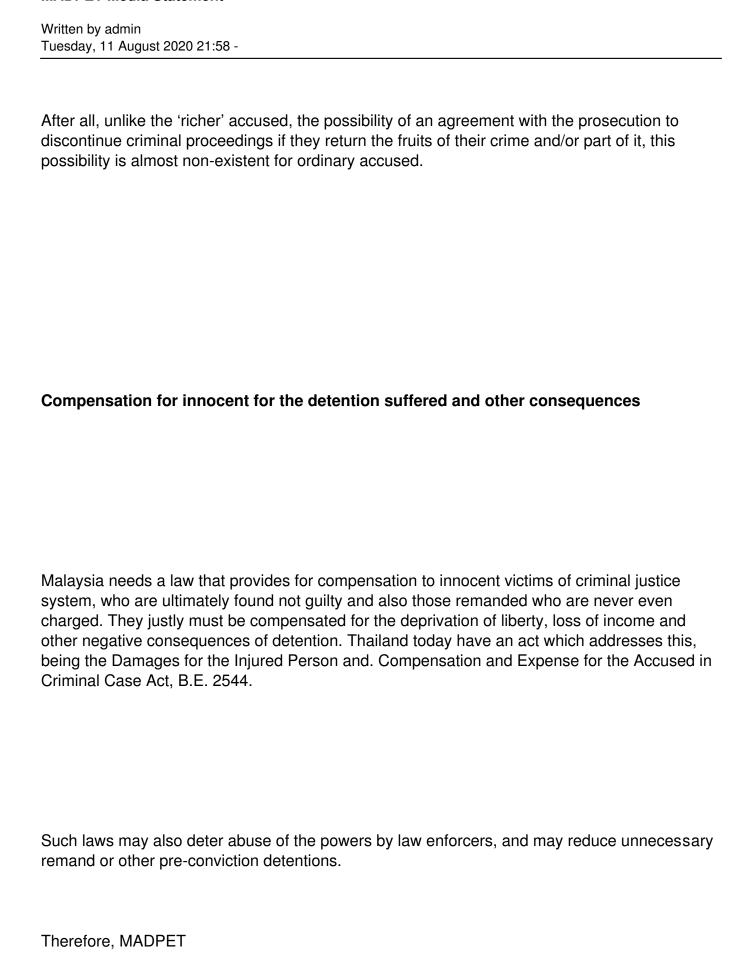
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According to the World Prison Brief, who claims data obtained from the Malaysian government, a large number of persons detained in Malaysian prisons are not persons already convicted and serving out their sentence. 'In 2015, for example, there were a total of 51,602 persons in Malaysian prisons, and about 25.8% (13,000) of them were remand pre-trial prisoners.' These pre-trial detainees would include those poor that cannot afford bail and others who were denied bail, which would include those charged with one of the many offences listed under SOSMA.

Pre-conviction Detention and delayed trials can cause the innocent to plead guilty

Pre-conviction detention or punishment is unjust, a violation of human rights. Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence." Punishment should best come only after one is convicted and sentenced by court after a fair trial.

Pre-conviction detention, with an uncertainty of when the trial will end, may even cause many an innocent person to simply plead guilty, for then, they can be certain as to when they will be freed to resume normal life.



Tuesday, 11 August 2020 21:58 -

Written by admin

- Calls for the end of discrimination of the victims of the administration of justice system in Malaysia; - Calls for an improvement and reform of lock-up and prison conditions to be in compliance with international standards and best practice; - Calls for an end of the practice of remanding suspects for the purpose of investigations, safe for very serious crimes and for justified reasons of fear of absconding; - Calls for the immediate release of all prisoners, who have yet to be tried and convicted, safe for those who have committed very serious crimes and/or have a high justifiable flight risk, - Calls for speedy trials, for all the yet to be convicted in Malaysian prisons, which should end not later than 6 months;



-Calls for Malaysia to introduce laws that will provide for just compensations to those who have been deprived their freedoms and rights, by reason of detention and otherwise, who are ultimately not convicted and/or found to be not guilty, and/or those that have not been even charged after spending days in remand;

MADPET(Malaysians Against Death Penalty and Torture)

10 August 2020