



**MEDIA STATEMENT
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARREST OF EGYPTIAN STUDENT IN MALAYSIA: CONCERNS OVER FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS**

KUALA LUMPUR (9 AUGUST 2025) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) expresses concern over the recent arrest of Egyptian university student, Mohammed Marwan, by Malaysian authorities following his peaceful protest outside the Egyptian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

While SUHAKAM does not condone acts of vandalism or the defacement of property as a form of protest, we emphasise that any expression of opinion, particularly when carried out in a non-violent and conscientious manner, should be addressed proportionately and in accordance with human rights principles. Marwan's message, in solidarity with civilians in Gaza, reflects a humanitarian concern that is widely shared by Malaysians. The right to freedom of expression is protected under Article 10(1)(a) of the Federal Constitution and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

SUHAKAM takes note of the update from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) confirming that Marwan has been released from custody and that, no deportation has taken place. This outcome is a positive development. It is also in line with Malaysia's obligations under international human rights law, including the principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibits returning individuals to countries where they may face torture, persecution, or inhumane treatment.

Nonetheless, SUHAKAM remains concerned that the arrest took place in the first instance, given that the act in question was peaceful and falls within the scope of protected expression. The circumstances of the arrest raise important questions about how the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are interpreted and applied in practice.

Malaysia has long held a firm stance in support of humanitarian justice, particularly concerning the plight of the Palestinian people. This position has been echoed by many in Malaysian society, including the highest levels of government. In this context, the arrest of a student for expressing solidarity with the same cause may send a conflicting message and risks undermining public trust in the consistency of Malaysia's human rights commitments.

SUHAKAM urges all authorities and institutions to remain vigilant in upholding the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under national and international law. Malaysia must ensure that its legal processes and enforcement mechanisms are not influenced by external pressures in ways that compromise these rights.

As a matter of principle, no individual, regardless of nationality, should be penalised for peacefully exercising their conscience in support of justice, human dignity, and the protection of civilians from violence. Upholding these values is vital to preserving Malaysia's standing as a nation committed to human rights and the rule of law.

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**The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
Date: 9 August 2025**