



PRESS STATEMENT

22 September 2026

Stop Targeting Human Rights Defenders: Keep the Focus on Corruption, Najib's Pardon and State Accountability

The Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) stands in solidarity with MANDIRI Executive Director Amir Hadi and HAYAT CEO Dobby Chew, [who have been detained under Section 4\(1\) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 \(AMLA\)](#).

At a time when Malaysians are demanding answers to former prime minister Najib Razak's conditional pardon, the targeting of human rights defenders raises alarm and skepticism over the government's accountability and real commitment to eradicate corruption.

Authorities have an immediate responsibility to provide clear information on the specific offence being investigated and the basis for their detention, especially when they have been fully cooperating with the investigation.

CIJ calls on the authorities to uphold due process, ensure transparency, and respect the fundamental rights of Amir Hadi and Dobby Chew throughout the investigation.

We demand an end to arbitrary, disproportionate and retaliatory use of the law and investigative powers against civil society.

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CIJ Executive Director

For further inquiries, please contact Natasha at comms@cijmalaysia.net

The Centre for Independent Journalism is a non-profit organisation that aspires for a society that is democratic, just and free where all peoples will enjoy free media and the freedom to express, seek and impart information.