



25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Item 6  
General Debate

Thank you Mr. President,

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and Pusat Komas, a member of COMANGO-Coalition of Malaysian NGOs for UPR, welcome this opportunity to discuss measures to enhance the effectiveness of the UPR mechanism.

Mr President, Civil Society plays an integral role in ensuring that the UPR Process is inclusive, transparent and representative of a wide scope of concerns.

However, despite the explicit acknowledgment of the crucial role of civil society in the UPR process, governments across the world routinely attempt to obstruct and prevent civil society groups from effectively participating in the Process.

Mr President, on several occasions, the Malaysia delegation has affirmed its commitment to working "in consultation with civil society stakeholders" to ensure that the national UPR process is both inclusive and transparent.<sup>1</sup> However, such statements are severely undermined by the government's flagrant exclusion of civil society including the repeated rejection of requests for meetings by the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs for UPR (COMANGO).

Moreover, independent civil society groups, including COMANGO, who have contributed to UPR process has been subjected to severe and groundless harassment. On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014, the Home Ministry of Malaysia issued a statement "deeming COMANGO illegal" under hollow claims that it is not a registered body. The use of such unwarranted administration hurdles to silence COMANGO, which raised a number of sensitive issues such as LGBTI rights and freedom of religion in its UPR Submission, is deeply concerning.

CIVICUS and Pusat Komas urge the government of Malaysia to address its failure to protect those voicing their right to the freedoms of expression and association by ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We further call on the Government to cease all further harassment of COMANGO and other independent civil society groups for undertaking their legitimate work, including participating in the UPR.

Thank you for your attention.

Read by: Jerald Joseph

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations : A/HRC/25/10/Add.1