

# NEWS RELEASE



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**ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS**

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## **U.S. Embassy Statement on the Government of Malaysia's Use of the Sedition Act**

The U.S. Embassy joined other diplomats in observing the October 16 march by the Malaysian Bar Council that called for the repeal of the Sedition Act. We recognize the peaceful nature of this protest reflected efforts of the Bar Council and Malaysian authorities.

The United States remains concerned with the Malaysian government's use of sedition laws. We welcomed Prime Minister Najib's announcement in 2012 of his intention to repeal the Sedition Act and encourage the government to follow through on that commitment.

We urge the Government of Malaysia to apply the rule of law fairly, transparently, and apolitically in order to promote confidence in Malaysia's democracy, judiciary, and economy. U.S. officials have raised our concerns about the rule of law and human rights with the Malaysian government, and will continue to do so.