

UUM/0053/REST/30.08.2001

Vice-chancellor did not link JIM to KMM,

ALOR STAR, Wed. — Universiti Utara Malaysia today denied that its vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Basri had linked Jemaah Islah Malaysia (JIM) to the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM).

UUM chief assistant registrar (public relations) Mohd Zaini Nasri said Ahmad Fawzi had not mentioned JIM during a Press conference on Aug 23.

"Subsequently, JIM did not ap-

pear in any of the news reports that followed the Press conference.

"In that same Press conference, the UUM vice-chancellor also did not link JIM to the KMM," he said.

The statement was issued in response to JIM's request for Ahmad Fawzi to release a copy of his Press statement supposedly alleging the body was involved with the KMM.

JIM president Prof Dr Mohamed Hatta Shahrarom was quoted as urging Ahmad Fawzi to substanti-

ate the allegations saying they were made without any basis.

In the Aug 23 Press conference, Ahmad Fawzi revealed that UUM had learnt about an underground movement which had allegedly tried to influence undergraduates to start a *jihad* (holy war).

He said the movement had organised at least two seminars attended by students from institutions of higher learning and was investigating the extent of stu-

says Universiti Utara Malaysia

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dents' involvement in it.

In his statement Mohd Zaini also said it was JIM themselves who had admitted to another newspaper on Aug 25 that it had organised a seminar in Penang which the vice-chancellor had referred to during the Press conference.

He also denied that Ahmad Fawzi had "misinterpreted or twisted the issue".

Mohd Zaini said what was cited during the Press conference by

Ahmad Fawzi were excerpts from a working paper presented at the seminar entitled "Ke Arah Pemantapan Mahasiswa Du'at".

Mohd Zaini said an extract read by Ahmad Fawzi at the Press conference was:

"Jihad in this country requires courage to point out injustices that occur, exposing the widespread abuse of power, manipulation of rights which had become an open secret.

"Although not impossible, I am of the opinion that jihad in our country has not reached the stage where force and arms are used."

Mohd Zaini said a UUM student who had participated in the seminar had also photocopied a book borrowed from the UUM library titled *Ikhwan Muslimun* (by Ishak Musa Al Husaini) which also carried a sub-heading of "Tinjauan Sejarah Sebuah Gerakan Islam (Bawah Tanah)".