

<p>Thu, May 21 2009 - KUALA LUMPUR: The Bar Council has submitted a memorandum to the Human Rights Commission on the arrest of five lawyers at the Brickfields police station on May 7. </p><p>♦</p><p>The lawyers had been trying to provide legal aid to those detained at a candlelight vigil in support of Bersih activist Wong Chin Huat.</p><p>♦</p><p>♦</p><p>Bar Council president Ragunath Kesavan said the lawyers were arrested in the course of carrying out their professional obligations in accordance with the law.</p><p>♦</p><p>"There is a crucial difference between such detention and previous incidents where lawyers were arrested as private citizens," he said.</p><p>♦</p><p>"The Malaysian Bar is not seeking nor expecting preferential treatment nor exemption from the law.</p><p>♦</p><p>"It is seeking to uphold the right of lawyers to have access to their clients."</p><p>♦</p><p>It also plans to submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak over the alleged "unlawful detention" of the five lawyers. </p>