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For Action Against Jenderam'—Watherston

Standard Staff Correspondent

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.—Before the round-up in Kampong Jenderam in February last took place, altogether over 100 Malays from Kampongs in South Selangor had come to Kuala Lumpur in large and small parties on different dates to beg the Chief Police Officer to take action against Jenderam. These Malays said that they were being bled white by the Jenderam people.

This was revealed in the Federal Legislative Council today by the Secretary for Defence, Mr. D. C. Watherston, answering oral questions by Capt. Hussein bin Onn.

Mr Watherston said that of the 1,807 people who were rounded up 12 Chinese, 83 Malays and 103 Indians, totalling 198, were exempted by the High Commissioner from the operation of the order made under the Emergency Regulations and were released either immediately or within a few days.

He recounted the reasons for the round-up in Jenderam which, he said, was the bandits' supply and information centre for the whole of south Selangor. Bandit collections from Jenderam came to \$4,000 month, he said.

All those rounded up in Jenderam except those released, are being detained in the Kluang Detention Camp, because there is no place for them in any of the camps in Selangor.

56 RELEASED

Of those sent to the Kluang Detention Camp, a total of 56, including 32 Malay children under 12 years, have been released up to April 21.

All the inhabitants of the area were screened during the course of the round-up operations and since then more than 100 persons, all adult Malays or Indonesians, have been interrogated. The process was continuing, Mr. Watherston stated.

Evidence has emerged from the interrogations that of those detained, 81 Indonesians and Malays and 36 Chinese were definitely implicated with the bandits.

This did not mean that it would be possible to charge all these people in court.

The ultimate number against whom there was evidence of complicity with the bandits was likely to be very much higher, said Mr. Watherston.

All livestock and perishable goods belonging to the people who were rounded up in Kampong Jenderam, have been sold and the amounts realised will be paid to the original owners of the property.

Moveable property, such as furniture, bicycles and wireless sets which it was impracticable for the owners to take to the detention camp has been moved to Kajang where it has been stored.

With regard to immovable property, there are several houses

approximately 20 square miles.

No person is allowed in the area without a written authority from the C.P.O., and such protection as is within the power of the security forces is being given, said Mr. Watherston. In general, any person released from detention will not be permitted to return to the Jenderam area at least for the present.

"It is the intention that they should be made subject to orders under the Emergency Regulations prohibiting them from residing within the south Selangor Police Circle," Mr. Watherston stated.

He added that it was understood that the Selangor Government had selected areas in other parts of the State for the settlement of such persons as were released. They could either live at these places or go to live elsewhere at approved addresses, he explained.

Inche Mohd. Yusof asked whether Government was aware that it was "useless" to release the husband and detain the wife and vice versa.

Mr. Watherston replied that

Government considered each case carefully.

To another question by Inche Yusof whether Government was aware that released husbands were lingering about the detention camp until their wives were released and vice versa, there was no answer.

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Last Updated 2023-01-31