

# It's UTM, says former Arqam man Zabidi

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**SHAH ALAM:** "What I said was Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) not Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)," says ex-Al Arqam member Zabidi Mohammad.

Zabidi was clarifying news reports that quoted him as saying there were many UiTM students who continued to follow Al-Arqam founder Ashaari Muhammad's deviant teachings under a movement that uses Rufaqa Corporation Sdn Bhd as a front.

He said the movement penetrated local universities through a female *nasyid* group, Mawaddah.

Zabidi said the three lecturers who are helping to spread Ashaari's ideology in local universities were those mentioned in the book *Abuya Ashaari Muhammad — Pemimpin Paling Ajaib Di Zamannya* (Father Ashaari Muhammad — The Most Miraculous Leader in His Time) written by Ashaari's first wife, Khadijah Aam.

"The lecturers involved are from Universiti Sains Malaysia

(USM) and UTM. If the Higher Education Ministry wants further details and proof of this, they can contact me," he told the *New Sunday Times*.

Replying to UiTM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah's call for him to come forward and prove his allegations, he said he would set an appointment to meet him to explain the situation.

"I will act proactively to set an appointment to see him and explain how the Mawaddah group is trying to penetrate all the local universities so that UiTM can prevent such groups from entering the university," he said.

In a *New Straits Times* report, Ibrahim had said an investigation would be carried out immediately to determine if UiTM students or lecturers were involved with the Al-Arqam movement.

However, he said, very little evidence had been found to link students or faculty members to the banned cult.