

10 DEC 1996

Court-Lim

GRANDMOTHER FAINTS WHILE TESTIFYING, GUAN ENG'S TRIAL ADJOURNED

MELAKA, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- The High Court adjourned the trial of Kota Melaka MP Lim Guan Eng to tomorrow after a 65-year-old woman who was testifying said she felt like she was about to faint for the second time today.

Pendek Ahmad, who first fainted in the witness box in the morning, told Judge Datuk Mohd Noor Abdullah this shortly after the court resumed hearing in the afternoon.

Pendek is the grandmother of an underage girl who is alleged to have an affair with former Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Thamby Cik.

She fainted 25 minutes after she began testifying this morning, as she was replying to a question by Lim's counsel, Karpal Singh.

Lim, 36, is accused of publishing a pamphlet containing false facts under the heading "Victim Imprisoned".

Lim, who is also the deputy secretary-general of DAP, is charged under Section 8A (1) of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 which carries a maximum sentence of three years' jail or a fine of RM20,000 or both upon conviction

He faces a second charge of instigating the public through a speech he made at Hotel Emperor, Jalan Munsyi Abdullah, here on Jan 19 in which he claimed that Malaysia practiced double standards in enforcing the law.

In the speech, Lim questioned the country's laws after Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah announced that Rahim would not be charged in court.

For the second charge under Section 4 (1) (b) of the Sedition Act 1948, Lim faces a maximum sentence of up to three years or a fine of RM5,000 or both upon conviction.

In his testimony earlier, Lim told the court that he was inspired to write "Witness Imprisoned" after reading an article by Marina Mahathir entitled "Withered Justice" in The Star of Nov 9, 1994.

Marina is a guest writer of the English daily.

At today's hearing, Pendek said in reply to a question by Karpal Singh that when she met her granddaughter in Bukit Aman in Kuala Lumpur, on Sept 8, 1994, the girl told her Rahim had raped her.

"My granddaughter also used the word 'imprisoned'," Pendek said.

She said several policemen at Bukit Aman told her that the 17-year-old girl had been imprisoned.

However, when asked by Judge Mohd Noor if she believed her granddaughter, Pendek said she felt what the girl told her was not true.

As soon as she said that, Pendek told the judge she felt as though she was going to faint, and she was then carried out of the witness box.

Earlier, Pendek told the court that before she was able to meet her granddaughter she had lodged a report about the girl with the Alor Gajah police station and she was accompanied by her son and Lim.

She said she had discussed with Lim before making the report.

Karpal Singh is assisted by J.Amardas while the prosecution is conducted by Deputy Public Prosecutors Mohd Azahar Mohamed and Wong Kian Keong.-- BERNAMA

SBB MAI SK