

22 JAN 1996

Karpal-detainee

KARPAL UNHAPPY THAT ONLY TWO POLICEMEN WERE CHARGED

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Lawyer Karpal Singh said today he will take legal action against the government as he is dissatisfied with the Attorney-General's decision to charge only two of the 11 policemen implicated in the death of police detainee Lee Quat Leong.

Claiming that the "real culprits" were still free, he said the decision to charge only the two was a disgrace to the judicial system of the country.

"I cannot accept the Attorney-General's action and I will take legal action against the government on this case. I won't let them off the hook," he told reporters outside the Sessions Court here.

Karpal, who was holding a watching brief for Lee's family, was speaking after the court jailed the two policemen 18 months each for causing hurt to the 42-year-old mechanic who died at a police remand centre here last year.

He said he would prove in his civil suit that all the 11 policemen were jointly responsible for Lee's death and would ensure that appropriate action was taken against them.

"After it has been proved that all of them were involved, the Attorney-General has no choice but to charge the other nine," he said.

"I hope Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will look into the matter."

Karpal Singh also said all the 11 should be charged under Section 302 of the Penal Code which carries the mandatory death sentence on conviction, and not under Section 330 which carries a maximum sentence of seven years' jail and a fine.

The two policemen who pleaded guilty today, Muhari Mohamed Jani and P. Shanmugam, were charged under Section 330 with voluntarily causing hurt to Lee, to extort information in connection with the break-in at the Maybank Finance branch in Taman Cheras last March. -- Bernama