

10 JAN 1997

Maid-Appeal

FILIPINA MAID APPEALS TO A-G TO REVIEW HER RAPE CASE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- A Filipina maid who accused the former Croatian ambassador here of raping her today appealed to the Attorney-General to review her case which was closed due to insufficient evidence.

Maria Fe T. Ocampo, 27, whose visa is due to expire on Jan 13, made the appeal through her counsel Karpal Singh at a news conference here.

She holds a work permit valid until April 7.

Karpal said he was informed by the federal police headquarters in a letter dated Dec 31 last year that the prosecution division of the A-G's office had closed the case due to insufficient evidence to proceed against the ambassador who has left the country.

Maria had alleged that ambassador Kresimir Zridaric, who hired her on April 7 last year, raped her four times between April 11 and Aug 23 last year at his residence in Ukay Heights, Ampang.

She also claimed that Zridaric outraged her modesty in his kitchen on Sept 5 last year at about 9.15am and the incident was witnessed by her mother who was then working at the Croatian Embassy.

On Sept 8 last year, Maria lodged a police report at Ampang police station and underwent a medical examination at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital the same day.

Karpal said the A-G's Chambers should not have closed the case since Maria has adequate evidence to prosecute the ambassador and she has the right to seek justice through Malaysia's legal system.

He also appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to intervene in the case which he believed could tarnish Malaysia's image if no immediate action was taken.

Karpal said he would help Maria to apply for an extension of her visa until the civil action she brought against Zridaric in the Shah Alam High Court was disposed of.

No date has been fixed for the suit but Karpal said he had asked for an early hearing.

Maria, who was accompanied by her mother Saturnina Talistic, 47, at the news conference, said she wrote to Dr Mahathir in November last year asking for justice and be allowed to stay and work in Malaysia, but there was no reply.

She said they have been jobless and are currently living on the charity of friends. -- BERNAMA

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