

11 DEC 1998

Court-Anwar (Morning)

DR RISTINA CONTACTED THE DEPUTY IGP FOR CONFIRMATION, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Dr Ristina Majid, the owner of the house where Ummi Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar were arrested, contacted Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai to ascertain that it was a police party which had gathered outside her house, the High Court here was told today.

The assistant director of the Prosecution and Legal Division of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), SAC I Musa Hassan, said that he knew the dentist had contacted Norian who then told her to meet his (Musa's) requests.

Musa was testifying at the trial of former Deputy Prime Minister and former Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is facing four counts of corrupt practice with using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Anwar, 51, is charged under Section 2(1) of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance No 22 of 1970 which carries a maximum jail term of 14 years and fine of RM20,000 or both on conviction.

Musa, the investigating officer, is the 13th prosecution witness at the trial which entered its 25th day today. He was called to give his evidence yesterday.

Musa said that Dr Ristina contacted Norian when he was outside the door of the master bedroom on the top floor of her bungalow, situated in Jalan Medang Tanduk in Bangsar, on Aug 17, last year.

He said that Dr Ristina had locked herself in the master bedroom with her two children, their maid, Ummi Hafila and Azizan.

"I communicated with Dr Ristina from outside the door of the bedroom," he said.

Musa said he had earlier identified himself as a police officer.

"Initially, Dr Ristina did not believe that they were from the police, saying that she was suspicious as two or three days earlier she, Ummi Hafila and Azizan were constantly being tailed by people they did not know," he said.

Musa said that earlier, he received a telephone call from ACP Mazlan Mohamed Din from the Special Branch at 8.30pm informing him that he was facing problems entering Dr Ristina's house and requested him to proceed to the house.

The problem faced by Mazlan was that the occupants had refused to open the door to allow the police to enter the house to arrest Ummi Hafilda and Azizan whom they knew were taking refuge in the house, he said.

Ummi Hafilda is the writer of the letter "Perihal Salahlaku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter Of The Misconduct Of The Deputy Prime Minister), addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. A sworn statement by Azizan alleging he has been sodomised by Anwar was attached to the letter.

Azizan is the former driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Wan Azizah Ismail.

Musa said that he arrived at the house about half an hour later and was told by Mazlan that the owner of the house had locked herself with all the others, in the room.

He said that later, when Dr Ristina agreed to follow his instructions, he tried to open the bedroom door but failed as the lock was jammed due to the force used by the police to get the door opened earlier.

"A locksmith had been called but he also failed to get it opened and I told Dr Ristina to come out through the balcony," he said.

When they came out, Ummi Hafilda and Azizan were arrested and brought by Special Branch officers to Bukit Aman.

Musa said that when he arrived at the house, Dr Ristina's ex-husband was already there and later, the management director of the police, Datuk Jamil Johari, arrived.

He had told the court earlier that when he received a report lodged by ASP Zull Aznam Haron, Anwar's aide-de-camp, on the anonymous letter "Talqin Terbuka Untuk Anwar Ibrahim" (Last Rites For Anwar Ibrahim), he instructed ASP Zulkifli Mohamed to conduct investigations under Section 4(1)(c) of the Sedition Act.

He was at that time in the room of then Special Branch Director Datuk Mohamed Said Awang who told him that he knew two people suspected to be involved with the letter and the Special Branch would try to trace them. He asked for a police party from the CID for assistance, he said.

Musa said that Mohamed Said directed him to hand over the two of them to the Special Branch for interrogation to obtain details pertaining to the anonymous letter.

Later at 2pm on Aug 17, last year, he received a telephone call from Mazlan to inform him to place his men on alert as there was a possibility the two suspects could be traced, he said.

Finally, they were tracked down to Dr Ristina's house, he added.

-- BERNAMA
NHD ZKS RM