

25/10/1998

Four charged with disobeying police order

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Four people, including a university student, were charged in the magistrate's court today with disobeying police order to disperse from an unlawful assembly.

All pleaded not guilty. They are International Islamic University student Muhamad Ikhbal Abdul Rahman, 20, unemployed Muhammad Redza Abdullah Sani, 19, waiter Mahyuddin Mohd Yazid, 19, all from Batu Caves, and general worker Rosli Abdul Majid of Serdang.

They are alleged to have disobeyed an order by Assistant Commissioner Koh Hong Sun to disperse from an unlawful assembly in front of Istana Negara, Jalan Istana Baru, about 7.45pm on Oct 17.

They also pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge of attending an unlawful assembly at the same place, time and day.

Magistrate Sayani Mohd Nor allowed bail of RM2,000 in one surety each pending trial from June 7 to 11. All posted bail.

The principal charge is under section 27(4) of the Police Act 1967 which is punishable under section 27(8) of the same Act with a minimum fine of RM2,000 or a maximum fine of RM10,000 and up to one year's jail.

The alternative charge is under section 27(5) of the Act which is also punishable under section 27(8) of the same Act.

Earlier, Deputy Public Prosecutor Stanley Augustin called on the court to set bail at RM2,000 in one surety.

V. Ravichandran, who appeared with three other counsel, called on the court to fix bail at RM1,000 in one surety. The other counsel were B. Murugayah, Suhaimi Mohd Yusoff and S. Narayanan.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said she has been advised that any foreign organisation wishing to attend her husband's trial as observers can make their application before the High Court judge hearing the case.

Dr Wan Azizah said she had also been advised that it was not for the Government to decide whether anyone ought to be given observer status at her husband's trial.

She also said she was of the opinion that Malaysians should show the world that the country's judiciary was independent.

"In the past there have been instances where the court had accorded observer status to foreign organisations," she said after attending the hearing of Anwar's habeas corpus application at the High Court today.

She said the Federal Court granted observer status to representatives of Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists during DAP's deputy secretary-general Lim Guan Eng's appeal in August following an application by his counsel, Mr Karpal Singh.

She said she was concerned with the statement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter.

The High Court has fixed Nov 2 to 14 to hear four of five charges of corrupt practices against Anwar, who is also accused of five counts of sodomy.

No dates have been fixed for the other six charges.

(END)