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Barred from publishing alleged conversations with PM, IGP

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The High Court today barred the Press from publishing details of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's alleged conversations with the Prime Minister and Inspector-General of Police last year.

Judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul said the statements of the PM and IGP, as related by Anwar, were hearsay and inadmissible unless the two were called as witnesses.

The defence was unsure if it wanted to call Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tan Sri Rahim Noor, although it had indicated earlier that it would.

"I'm going to direct the Press not to publish it until the court makes a final ruling on it pending proof of the statements allegedly made by the two persons to the accused, in so far as to what they said were concerned," said Paul.

Before making his ruling, Paul asked defence counsel Raja Aziz Addruse the relevance of the evidence adduced on the conversations.

Raja Aziz said the evidence on the IGP was to show the police's attitude towards Anwar, and that on the PM was to show follow-up action by Anwar based on the IGP's advice.

Raja Aziz said while the defence had not decided whether to call the PM and IGP, it urged the court not to make a ruling yet.

Senior DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail objected, saying the court had to make a ruling one way or another.

(END)