

14 APR 1999

Court-Anwar (Events)

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATING TO ANWAR'S TRIAL

KUALA LUMPUR, April 14 (Bernama) -- Following are the events relating to the corruption trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, which ended today.

Anwar, 51, was removed from his cabinet posts as the deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2, 1998.

Sept 3: He was expelled from Umno by its supreme council after he refused to resign as deputy president.

Police filed affidavits alleging Anwar committed sexual offences and treason at the High Court in the case of Datuk S.Nallakaruppan, Anwar's tennis partner, who was charged with unlawful possession of 125 rounds of bullets.

Sept 11: Anwar begins series of public rallies around the country demanding reform and defending himself.

Sept 19: Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Sasmitaat Madja, and his former speech writer, Dr Munawar Anees Ahmad, were sentenced to six months' imprisonment each after they pleaded guilty to allowing Anwar to sodomise them.

Sept 20: Anwar led a march in Dataran Merdeka before he is arrested at his house in Bukit Damansara.

Sept 21: Thousands of demonstrators crowded the courthouse in Jalan Raja where they expected Anwar to be produced in court but police dispersed them with tear gas and water cannons.

Sept 29: Anwar appeared in court for the first time after his arrest with a black eye and pleaded not guilty to five corruption and four sodomy charges.

Anwar told a Sessions Court judge that the police beat him unconscious and denied him medical attention.

Sept 30: Anwar pleaded not guilty to an additional sodomy charge at Petaling Jaya Sessions Court.

Oct 5: Anwar arrived in Kuala Lumpur High Court wearing a neck brace. His request for bail was denied and High Court Judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul set Nov 2 to try the first four charges of corruption.

Oct 14: Anwar was transferred to Sungai Buloh Prison after he was no longer detained under the Internal Security Act. He was formerly detained at a lock-up at the police headquarters in Bukit Aman.

Nov 2: Trial opened at the High Court. Justice Augustine Paul declined bail and refused Anwar's request for dismissal of the charges on technical grounds. The judge also rejected requests by foreign rights groups and legal experts for special observer status in court.

Nov 3-6: First witness, Datuk Mohamed Said Awang, outgoing Special Branch director takes the stand. He says allegations of sexual misconduct by Anwar surfaced in 1992 and police launched operation code-named "Solid Grip" to investigate the allegations.

Mohamed Said says Anwar urged police in August 1997 to force a man and woman to retract allegations of sexual misconduct. He also describes a secret police technique to get witnesses to change their stand.

Defence counsel seek police report they suggest exposes political conspiracy to topple Anwar but when prosecution submits the report it did not contain any names of personalities as alleged.

Nov 9-13: Mohamed Said says Ummi Hafilda Ali, the woman who had accused Anwar of sodomy and then retracted the accusation, had said in a 1997 letter that First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, a trusted ally of

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had advised her to write a report on the allegations.

The officer says police used the turning over technique to neutralise Ummi Hafilda and Anwar's wife former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, to coerce them into retracting their allegations.

Justice Augustine Paul tells defence counsel to refrain from trying to prove Anwar was the victim of trumped-up charges and to focus on corruption charges.

Nov 24-27: The senior police intelligence officer says investigations of Anwar began after Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob gave police Ummi Hafilda's letter accusing Anwar of sex crimes.

The senior police intelligence officer says Anwar ordered police to "gempar" (frighten) Ummi Hafilda and Azizan, so they would retract their allegations.

Anwar files affidavit accusing trial prosecutors of trying to get his friend Nallakaruppan Solaimalai, accused of illegal possession of live bullets in another case, to level false allegations of sex crimes against Anwar

Nov 30: One of his defence counsel, Zainur Zakaria, was sentenced to three months' jail for contempt of court over Anwar's affidavit which supported his application to disqualify two senior public prosecutors from handling the case.

Nov 30-Dec 4: Azizan stands by allegations he made in 1997 accusing Anwar of sodomising him, saying Anwar had turned him into a "homosexual slave" in 1992.

Court of Appeal suspends Zainur's three-month jail sentence pending an appeal and more than 200 lawyers staged a protest outside the courthouse in support of Zainur. Azizan denies he had accused Anwar of sodomy in return for financial payment.

Dec 7-11: Azizan appears to contradict his allegations that Anwar had committed sodomy. Then Azizan says he had been sodomised by Anwar and Anwar's adopted brother Sukma. Judge Augustine Paul rejects demand by Anwar's lawyers to have Azizan's testimony thrown out.

Dec 14-18: The prosecution produces a mattress as evidence believed to be stained with semen and taken from an apartment where the author of "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM" (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM) alleged Anwar had carried on his sexual trysts.

Dec 21-24: Ummi Hafilda denies suggestions by Anwar's lawyers that she was a jilted lover seeking revenge after Anwar rejected her advances. Justice Augustine Paul bars publication of a taped conversation between Ummi Hafilda and a businessman which a defence lawyer says proves a conspiracy to topple Anwar.

Dec 28-31: Anwar's lawyers imply the mattress produced as evidence could have been stained with semen taken from Anwar's body while he was unconscious.

Jan 4-8, 1999: A police officer says Anwar does not have the HIV virus based on the results of a blood test. The judge rules inadmissible tape recordings of a conversation which the defence say proves a conspiracy against Anwar.

Jan 5: Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah confirms that Anwar was beaten by police after his arrest.

Jan 11-13: The judge accepts the prosecution's amendments to the four corruption charges and rules that evidence relating to sexual misconduct and sodomy is now irrelevant.

Jan 26-30: Defence counsel say Anwar did not break the law by seeking retractions from his accusers, and two police officers should be indicted.

The prosecution says Anwar abused his power for his own benefit.

The judge rules Anwar has a case to answer on all four corruption charges under examination.

Feb 8-12: Anwar takes the stand as first defence witness, saying he was the victim of political conspiracy and police conspiracy. The judge rules out the defence argument that Anwar was the victim of a political conspiracy. The A-G leads the prosecution team for the first time.

Anwar says he did not order police to cover up allegations of sex crimes by him and he clashes with prosecutors, insisting he was a victim of a conspiracy involving bribery, threats and billions of dollars.

Feb 18-19: The judge orders an adjournment after Anwar suffered pain following a tooth operation.

Feb 22-26: Anwar's former aide-de-camp ASP Zull Aznam Harun, testifying as a defence witness, says Azizan told him he had been promised money to accuse Anwar of sodomy.

Feb: 28: Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor admits to beating Anwar in a police lock-up at the Royal Commission of Inquiry.

March 1-5: Anwar's former private secretary, Mohamed Azmin Ali, says Azizan appealed to Anwar for help to get a government contract. Mohamed Azmin says his sister Ummi Hafilda is a compulsive liar.

March 8-12: The judge rules that a lawyers could not testify in the trial. Anwar's wife, Datin Sri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, testifies in the trial that she had seen a confidential government document on a high-level political conspiracy against him.

Mohamed Azmin says he was stripped while in police custody and told to confess to being sodomised by Anwar. Mohanmed Azmin says Megat Junid wrote the letter which Ummi Hafilda sent to Dr Mahathir accusing Anwar of sex crimes, and Ummi Hafilda was paid money to participate in a conspiracy.

Anwar's lawyers say they will not call Dr Mahathir or Daim as their witnesses.

March 15-19: The defence says it is closing case after judge rejects its request to call 10 more witnesses. Anwar files a motion, supported by an affidavit, asking Justice Augustine Paul to disqualify him from continuing to hear the case, calling him biased.

March 23: Defence counsel refuse to submit as they say it is not proper as the application is pending and judge warns them that they could be cited for contempt of court over the refusal. He abruptly ends trial after the defence declines to make closing arguments. Justice Augustine Paul fixes April 6 for delivering verdict.

March 27: Justice Augustine Paul dismissed Anwar's application to disqualify him from continuing to hear the case as he found it was wrong in law.

March 29-April 1: The defence urges the judge to acquit Anwar while the prosecution says defence witnesses failed to corroborate Anwar's testimony and his evidence has strengthened its case.

Trial ended and the judge deferred verdict until April 14.

-- BERNAMA

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