

07 JAN 1999

Rahim-Profile

RAHIM RESIGNS OVER "BLACK EYE" INCIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Jan (Bernama) -- Investigations into the injuries suffered by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody took a stunning twist today with the sudden resignation of Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor effective tomorrow.

This came on the heel of a statement by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah two days ago that the police were fully responsible for the injuries to Anwar.

It was a sad ending to the career of Abdul Rahim who assumed the role of the nation's top police chief on Jan 16, 1994.

He was scheduled to retire in June last year but the government decided to extend his service for two years.

The saga started when former deputy prime minister Anwar appeared in court on Sept 29 with a bruised eye which caused an outcry locally and internationally.

Photographs of the famous "black eye" even landed on the front cover of international news magazines.

According to Mohtar's statement, Abdul Rahim, 56, was one of the nine high-ranking police officers whose statement was yet to be recorded by the special investigation team set up to probe the matter.

Anwar had claimed during his maiden court appearance that police beat him unconscious after he was arrested on Sept 21 under the Internal Security Act and denied him medical attention for five days.

Abdul Rahim said in his statement today that he took full responsibility for the injuries suffered by Anwar while in police custody.

Mohtar had said that the investigation team led by (then Melaka CID Chief) SAC II Mat Zain Ibrahim, who is now the Kuala Lumpur CID chief, had yet to identify the person or persons responsible for such injuries.

The Melaka-born Abdul Rahim joined the police force in 1969 as a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of police after graduating from Universiti Malaya.

He had served as Melaka Tengah OCPD, Commandant of the Kuala Kubu Baharu Police College, Selangor Chief Police Officer, Sabah Police Commissioner and Special Branch director before assuming the post of deputy IGP.

The police have also been accused by Anwar's supporters to have had a role in a "conspiracy" to topple the country's former number two.

In light of what had happened to Anwar, many parties expressed concern and fear that whatever happened to Anwar could happen to any Malaysian.

But Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself gave the assurance that the police would investigate the "black eye" incident and even Bukit Aman issued a statement to assure the public that the investigation would be conducted in a fair manner.

Nevertheless, various groups voiced their disappointment over the slow progress of the investigations and called for the setting up of an independent commission to probe Anwar's injuries while others demanded that the AG and Abdul Rahim resign.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that the government would consider setting up such a panel to investigate charges that police officers had caused injuries to Anwar during his detention.

The police also drew the wrath of the public, especially Anwar's supporters, for thwarting their attempts to hold illegal gatherings in the city following his sacking from the Cabinet last September.

Abdul Rahim played a key role to end the Communist insurgency in the country in 1989.

-- BERNAMA

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