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Wan Azizah can be prosecuted for remarks

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I REFER to the article "Wan Azizah ready to contest polls" (NST, April 30).

Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, is reported to have said during a television interview in Manila on April 29 that "Mrs (Corazon) Aquino and the people of the Philippines showed that a dictator can be overthrown if the masses draw a line in the sand and say enough, no more" and that "we in Malaysia have our brothers and sisters in the Philippines to thank for showing us the way".

She is also reported to have said that "I regard their support for me and the National Justice Party (Keadilan) as the Malaysian version of 'people power', referring to the 1986 revolt that sent Ferdinand Marcos into exile in Hawaii.

The above statement implies that she was advocating the use of criminal force to depose or overthrow the Government of Malaysia which is an offence under Chapter VI of the Penal Code or under the Sedition Act.

As such offences also affect the country's security, she is not immune from prosecution by virtue of section 127A of the Criminal Procedure Code, even though they were committed abroad. Alternatively, she can also be arrested and detained under the Internal Security Act.

In the same interview, she also referred to her husband's case which she claimed was a "conspiracy of the highest order".

I do not wish to go into the merits or demerits of the case except to say that an Australian politician has said that any talk about political conspiracy appeals to the people. He made this remark following a dispute with the One Nation Party.

I also do not see how the Philippine Government could say that the meeting between its President and Dr Wan Azizah was a private one as I do not think he knows her that well.

To me, the President granted Dr Wan Azizah an "audience" which according to the dictionary is a "formal meeting between someone powerful and someone less important".

I feel that the President showed a lack of diplomacy and sensitivity to Malaysia's feelings by allowing Dr Wan Azizah to have an audience with him and to let her go on TV in his country to make scathing and scandalous attacks against the Government of Malaysia, and in particular against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.