

# Police urged to speed up rape investigations

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Women and Family Development Ministry has urged the police to speed up investigations into cases involving violence against women, especially rape.

Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said police should give priority in solving rape cases as the number was high compared to the cases solved.

Some 1,354 rape cases involving women and children were reported in 2001.

"The victims have been traumatised enough by these life-threatening situations and the culprits have to be brought to justice fast and given a harsh sentence.

"We know the police are doing their best in solving these cases, but they can take months and even years before

they complete investigations.

"The Ministry will continuously harp on the matter until a significant change is visible and these cases are given top priority by the police."

She had earlier launched an exhibition and talk, highlighting the "Women Against Violence" campaign organised by the Universiti Teknologi Mara final year Public Relations programme students, at Suria KLCC here, today.

Aimed at educating and creating awareness among people on how they can prevent violence against women, the campaign was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 23 last year.

During the launch, a registration counter was opened for the public to register as WAVE volunteers.