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Rape probe: Police to take pictures of detention centre staff to Zamboanga

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The special team investigating the alleged rape of a 13-year-old Filipina Jawina Song will take along pictures of detention centre staff to show her during their meeting in Zamboanga, Philippines, later this week.

"They will also take a picture of a security guard at a school in Sabah, as the girl had also said she was raped before she was detained and sent to the detention centre," said Deputy Federal CID chief Datuk Musa Hassan.

Musa said police had taken statements from several detention centre staff and others to assist investigations.

He said initial investigations showed that the girl had been left to wander around before to her detention.

"We need to speak to her to get additional information to assist investigations," he said today.

The probe team, set up on Sept 6, comprises five officers from the Federal police sexual crimes and legal division.

It is led by Criminal Investigation Department assistant director for special investigations, Assistant Commissioner Takbir Ahmad, and prosecution and legal officer Deputy Superintendent Yahya Ramli.

The team was formed following a directive by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a swift and thorough probe into the allegation.

The allegation created a furore in the Philippines and president Gloria Arroyo sent a letter "expressing out-rage" to Dr Mahathir.

Federal police had then asked for permission to interview the girl, either in Malaysia or Zamboanga where she currently lives.

Arrangements are being made for the probe team to travel to the Philippines and they are expected to leave as soon as possible.