

19/07/2003

Citizens Against Rape gathering at Mid Valley postponed indefinitely

PETALING JAYA, Fri. - The Citizens Against Rape (CAR) gathering, scheduled for Sunday at the Mid Valley Exhibition Centre, has been postponed indefinitely.

All Women's Action Society (Awam) programme manager Manohary Subramaniam said Mid Valley City Sdn Bhd had cancelled the society's booking for the event, forcing police to inform Awam that a permit would not be issued for the event until a venue has been confirmed.

"As it will be difficult to seek out a different venue and plan things within two days, we have decided to postpone it indefinitely," she said.

Awam had initially planned the event to take place in Jalan Pudina, Bangsar but police advised them to change to an indoor venue following their decision not to grant a permit for the event.

Police later informed Awam that they had to apply for a permit for the indoor function as well.

Awam president Mary Cardosa said she could not understand why police were reluctant to grant a permit for the event.

"At first we planned a march and when our application (for a permit) was turned down and we were advised to hold our gathering indoors, we changed our plans.

"All we want is to provide a venue for people to express their concerns about rape," Cardosa told a Press conference at the Awam headquarters in Sea Park.

Also present were Women's Aid Organisation executive director Ivy Josiah and "Friends of Canny Ong" representative Evelyn Lee.

Awam and WAO are helping the "Friends of Canny Ong" group to hold a memorial at the Theatre of Help Institute in Pusat Bandar Damansara tomorrow, with a keynote address to be delivered by Malaysian AIDS Council president Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir.

Meanwhile, Lim said the group "Friends of Canny Ong" was planning to hold yearly memorials in honour of their friend as well as talks about safety and violence against women.

Ong was abducted following a dinner outing at the Bangsar Shopping Complex in Kuala Lumpur on June 13 and taken on a terror ride before being stabbed to death.

The perpetrator dumped her body in a drain along Jalan Klang Lama and later returned to set it ablaze.

A cleaning company worker was later arrested and charged with rape and murder.