

Suhakam denies bailing out Burmese couple
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The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) denied it had posted bail for a Burmese couple involved in the case of five-year-old boy who went missing last month.

Suhakam commissioner N Siva Subramaniam refuted a New Straits Times report today which stated that a Suhakam official bailed out the couple from the Dang Wangi police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

"We (Suhakam) did not bail them out, we don't have authority to do that," he said when contacted.

He said the commission's duty ends at ensuring no violation of human rights had occurred. "If we bail one person, many others will line up outside Suhakam to be bailed out," he added.

Nazrin Shamsul Ghazali went missing on March 31 and his father's plight received extensive media coverage.

Last week, the boy was reportedly picked up by one Baharuddin Hassan from the Burmese couple's house after he received a call from them informing him that the toddler had been in their care since he went missing and that they had just learnt about his case.

Media coverage

However, the couple were later picked up by the police over suspicion that they use children for begging activities in the Klang Valley.

Meanwhile, Siva said he had sent a letter of complaint to Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil on the media coverage concerning the couple and their five children.

"Publishing their photographs were not proper," he pointed out.

According to Siva, the couple was bailed out by friends and later came to Suhakam on their own to voice their displeasure.

"They are not very happy that the media publicised them and their children," he said, adding that the couple's children were well cared for by the welfare department.

"I visited the children yesterday, they are looked after well," he said.

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