

**Shoe-throwing imam not violent, says wife**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**March 10, 2012**  
**Zulaikha Zulkifli**

The wife of the imam who has been sentenced to a year's jail on a contempt of court charge for his shoe throwing incident, said her husband was not a violent person as alleged.

Noorliza Mat Isa, 43, countered the court's assessment of her husband Hoslan Hussain's character, saying was not a hot head and has never been angry with his own family.

Noorliza Mat wife of the shoe-throwing imam "My husband is not violent as what the judge had said. He has never scolded me, and so, too, our children.

"We have been married 17 years, I know. He has never even hit the kids," she told Malaysiakini yesterday at her home.

"He is only strict when it comes to questions of religion," she added.

On Thursday, the Federal Court in Putrajaya sentenced the 46-year-old imam who hurled his shoes at a three-member panel of judges last month, to a one-year jail term.

While critics have slammed the decision as "excessive", Federal Court judge Zulkifli Ahmad Makinuddin who delivered the sentence said the penalty was in accordance with the case.

According to one of the judges, Suriyadi Halim Omar, Hoslan had failed to behave in the manner becoming of an imam and one who held a religious post.

"You are proud, uncouth, self-absorbed and violent... I am using the word 'violent' here. You do not respect this institution," said Suriyadi.

'Shoe throwing justified'

The incident took place during a hearing last month at the Federal Court, heard by a three-member panel led by Zulkifli, to rule on Hoslan's application for an appeal.

The former imam at the Ar Rahimah mosque in Kampung Pandan, Kuala Lumpur, was appealing an order evicting him from his house at the mosque compound, issued by the Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Department (MAIWP) in 2008 after allegations of disciplinary problems were levelled against him.

Noorliza Mat wife of the shoe-throwing imam Hoslan has in turn alleged that corruption was rife in the mosque.

Recalling the moment when she heard the judge deliver his verdict, Noorliza said she was already prepared for the eventuality.

While she said the ruling was unfair, the imam's wife insisted her husband's act of throwing his shoes was reasonable.

"My husband's actions were correct. The judge did not rule fairly," she said of the proceedings last month when the incident took place.

NONE "In any case, I hope the sentence will be lightened or made shorter," she said.

"I truly depend on Hoslan (left), his absence will affect me deeply.

"I am not good at driving and my income is small, just RM740 a month. This is insufficient to take care of my seven children who are all still schooling," she said.

"Before this, my husband was the one who did everything. Now I have to be independent.

"A month isn't short... but whatever the case I accept this and take it as a test," said Noorliza who works as a teaching assistant.

The mother of seven, aged 6, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 hails from Sungkai, Perak while Hoslan is from Slim River and raised in Kampung Pandan.

The couple has been PAS members since 1998.

'Children her strength'

Noorliza said she feels blessed that she has children who can understand their father's situation, even at their age.

Noorliza Mat wife of the shoe-throwing imam "I gathered the kids, and told them that their father was not in the wrong. This is all a struggle.

"Praise God, they understand. Only the youngest sometimes asks when father will be coming home.

"I am too sad to reply. But my children are my strength," she said.

Meanwhile, Noorliza said she was grateful to PAS Youth for collecting donations of RM20,000 to aid the family and has given her strength to face up to the situation.

"I truly welcome those who want to help me, as I really cannot support my children with what I earn alone. I am deeply grateful," she said.

Meanwhile PAS's Women's wing has announced a contribution of RM800 monthly aid to Noorliza.

Its chief Siti Zailah Mohd Yusuf said the contribution will be provided over a year as a show of sympathy for the imam's family.

"We decided to give the contribution to Hoslan's wife .... we need to take care of them, who truly deserve justice," she said at a press conference in PAS headquarters today.

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