

Two cops charged with assaulting photographer

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By Koh Jun Lin

Two police officers were charged in a magistrate's court in Kuala Lumpur today with assaulting *Guang Ming Daily* photographer Wong Onn Kin during the Bersih 3.0 on April 28.

The police officers, Lance Corporal Mohd Khairul Asri Mohd Sobri and Constable Shahrul Niza Abd Jalil, were allowed bail of RM3,000 each after they claimed trial.

They were charged under Section 352 of the Penal Code for using criminal violence against Wong (*left*) at the pro-electoral reform rally in Kuala Lumpur.

If convicted, they face a jail term of three months each, a fine of RM1,000 or both

The charge states that Khairul and Shahrul Niza, together with two others still at large, attacked Wong at the junction of Jalan Tun Perak and Jalan Raja between 5.20pm and 5.30pm on April 28.

Initially, Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohd Farizul Hassan Bakri recommended a bail of RM5,000, but defence lawyer Salim Bashir pleaded for a reduced sum RM1,000.

Salim said the flight risk of the two officers is minimal and their income is small owing to their low rank.

In addition, he said 30-year-old Khairul who is based in the Tanjung Malim police district, Perak, is married with a wife and three children.

“Even if the court thinks there is a flight risk, it could impose additional conditions...”

“Therefore, I propose a bail of RM1,000, which is the maximum the accused could prepare on short notice,” he added.

The other officer is a 24-year-old based at the Dang Wangi police district, Kuala Lumpur.

However, the judge Zulkpli Abdullah said a RM1,000 bail is just the bare minimum that could be imposed in view of the sentence if convicted, and ruled that a RM3,000 bail is needed to ensure that they attend their hearings.

The court then scheduled June 18 as the hearing date for the first two police officers charged in relation to allegations of police violence at Bersih 3.0.

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