

DAP: Burglary another sign of worsening security
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The latest break-in at former Malacca chief minister Abdul Rahim Thamby Chik's home shows that public security has worsened despite the government's denials, says DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

"Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein's indifferent dismissal of media reports on crime is clearly irresponsible as he is insensitive not only to the sufferings endured by victims but also to the real concerns of the people about crime.

NONE "If VIPs are also not safe, how can ordinary members of the public be safe?" Lim asked in a statement issued today.

Abdul Rahim's Kuala Lumpur residence was broken into last Saturday, when the family was away for a wedding. An unspecified amount of cash and a pistol were stolen.

Lim who is also Penang chief minister, said the Home Ministry's response to claims of rising crime, which relied solely on facts and figures, was "lazy and wrong" as these have no "human dimension" of the loss or injury caused by the criminals.

"While the facts and figures may show that the crime index has fallen, what is more important is whether an individual feels safe.

'Numbers don't make people feel safe'

"Telling that one is safe just because the crime index has fallen is irrelevant when now, a woman in the Klang Valley just going into the car park does not feel safe," he said.

NONE Hishammuddin had said the recent series of high profiles crime cases were isolated matters and that rising crime was a matter of perception because statistics have proved that the overall crime rate had seen a drop.

" Hishammuddin should retract his insensitive remarks and give his full attention to the worsening crime situation before it develops into a full blown crisis," Lim said.

He also listed a series of recent high profile crime cases, among them:

April 27 - the kidnapping of 12-year-old Dutch national Nayati Shamelin Moodliar;

May 27 - A woman in her 20s was abducted in Mutiara Damansara, but she escaped by jumping out of her kidnapper's car;

June 8 - Teacher Teoh Soo Kim was warded in intensive care unit after she was found unconscious after being robbed, abducted and assaulted,

June 9 - Attempted robbery of Bersih steering committee member Wong Chin Huat left him with a bloodied head; and

June 9 - 12-year-old A Devi narrowly escaped abduction in Ipoh.

According to Bernama, eight people have been murdered in gun-related crimes between January and June this year, most of whom were shot to death.

In contrast, there were only two such cases during the same period last year.

Lim called on the federal government to ensure a greater presence of police at crime hotspots, besides pumping more funds to improve public safety such as more CCTV cameras and community policing support.

"The time has come for the police not to be distracted by political directives to deal with peaceful law-abiding demonstrators or elected Pakatan Rakyat leaders and focus instead on their core duty of combating criminals," he said.

Selangor deputy police chief A Thaiveegan said last Saturday there had been a surge in crime of late, even though overall crime rate over the long term had fallen.

Thaiveegan said this could be a result of the repeal of Emergency Ordinance, under which large numbers suspected criminals had been released as the detention-without-trial law was no longer valid.

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