

Stop bullying SK Seri Pristana pupils, says MCA
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MCA has called on school authorities to stop "bullying" non-Muslim students at SK Seri Pristana, including by allowing police to question them in school without parental consent.

NONEIf such claims by the parents are true, MCA publicity chairperson Heng Seai Kie said, then Bukit Aman must step in and investigate the police officers involved.

In a statement, she also urged the Education Ministry to urgently look into the situation at the primary school to stop it from further exacerbating.

"If allegations of pupils questioned by the police officers are indeed true, and I personally believe they are, I urge the superiors of the Sungai Buloh police station, right up to Bukit Aman to probe into the method of investigation of the alleged police officers.

"There are laws which protect the rights of minors. In fact, the headmaster or the senior assistant should have contacted the parents upon being informed or discovering that the police were going to speak to the children," she said in a statement.

She added that parents are also justified with regard to their concern over the alleged photographing of their children by an unidentified man, who was accompanied by the headmaster.

She also urged police to investigate the police report by Guneswari Kelly that she had received death and kidnap threats against herself and her daughter, who used to attend the school before the shower canteen incident came to light.

Schools should be safe

"Surely, the (police district chief) does not want to be saddled with allegations of double standard and neglecting death threats issued against any citizen regardless of their gender, religion or race," she said.

NONEShe was commenting on claims by a group of parents (photo) yesterday that their children were questioned by the police and photographed without their consent.

The parents said some of the children are traumatised, cry at the sight of police personnel and now refuse to go to school, prompting the parents to apply to transfer their children out.

Sungai Buloh police district chief Junaidi Bujang, however, said there was "no such thing" as police questioning the students and that it was not an offence for the staff to photograph the students.

Heng said that by persecuting the pupils, the school authorities were being "vindictive" and were "hounding minorities rather than moving forward from a misdeed".

She said that instead, educators should protect and nurture students, and that schools should be a safe environment free from harassment.

School headmaster Mohd Nasir Mohd Nor was asked to go on one week leave after Guneswari exposed that students were made to eat in a shower room last month.

He later explained that the shower room was converted to a meal room for all as the canteen was too small, and that non-Muslims used it during Ramadan as the canteen was being renovated then.

On Monday, a parent whose child attends the school was arrested for allegedly threatening the headmaster, and is expected to be charged with criminal intimidation next month.

He had earlier also lodged a police report against the school staff for allowing his daughter to be photographed.

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