

MCA slams PAS for paying tribute to 'terrorist'
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PAS' act of honouring a "terrorist and an extremist" at their muktamar is an insult to the victims who were brutally murdered and tortured in the name of religion, said MCA.

"It displays PAS's extremism," said MCA religious harmony bureau deputy chairperson Ng Chok Sin in a statement today.

He was referring to reports of PAS openly praising and paying respects to the militant Mohd Lotfi Ariffin killed in Syria.

According to The Star Online, PAS observed a moment of silence during its Ulama wing's muktamar yesterday, where Perak ulama delegate Norazli Musa called Lotfi a "martyr" and led the crowd in the recital of the al-fatihah prayer.

"Let us pay our respects to Lotfi who is martyred in Syria. Al-fatihah," Norazli was reported saying to a crowd of 500 after his debate.

Ng asked, "Is PAS condoning the act of terrorism in the name of Islam?"

"Has PAS forgotten that they sacked Lotfi (right) when his involvement with Isis was reported?" he said, noting the party had earlier sought to distance itself from the militant after Wisma Putra issued a statement that Malaysia is against acts of terrorism.

"PAS Youth had even proposed to collect funds for Lotfi's family, citing Lotfi's ex-PAS membership as the reason for this.

"How instantly PAS has forgotten that it had sacked Lotfi for extremist views and now they glorify a terrorist," he said.

Ng pointed out that PAS information chief Mahfuz Omar on Sunday praised Lotfi's decision to continue fighting in war-torn Syria, while central committee member Nik Abduh Nik Aziz yesterday shared a "good advice" quote attributed to Lotfi.

According to organ Harakah, Lotfi was sacked on May 11 after a PAS central meeting and the party subsequently severed ties with him..

He died on Sept 14 after succumbing to his injuries from fighting Syrian government troops.

Source <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/275009>