

I spoke facts about Umno, defends Rafizi

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PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli said today his "provocative" comments against Umno, for which he is being charged in court, are actually factual.

He is charged under Section 504 of the Penal Code for "intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of peace".

If found guilty, he will face a two-year jail sentence, a fine of RM4,000, or both.

The charge is based on a statement he made in February 2014 that Selangor Umno was responsible for a demonstration in front of a church in Klang last year and also allegedly linked Umno Selangor with an incident where a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a church in Penang.

However, Rafizi said that what he said about Umno being responsible for the church demonstration was true.

"What I said about Umno Selangor are facts, reported in the media and in statements released by Umno themselves," he said before judge Azwarnida Affandi in a sessions court in Petaling Jaya.

In fact, he said, his statement published in an article on FZ.com titled 'Will Rafizi quit if Selangor is not toppled' actually focused on explaining the so-called 'Kajang Move', where PKR vacated the Kajang seat so that de facto opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim (photo) could contest the seat in a by-election.

"I didn't intend to criticise or raise Umno Selangor's ire. The interview had nothing to do with Umno Selangor. It was about the Kajang Move," Rafizi, who was PKR's strategy director at that time, said.

As for the Molotov cocktail incident, he said his quote was taken out of context.

He only referred to it while discussing the church demonstration as another example of racial tension as the two incidents took place within a month of each other, he explained.

The hearing will resume on Sept 21, during which the lawyers on both sides will make their submissions.

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