

IGP can't just dismiss Al Jazeera's Altantuya report, says MP
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An opposition MP has urged the police not to dismiss allegations raised in yesterday's Al Jazeera report on the Altantuya Shaariibuu murder without any investigation into their veracity.

"The allegations revealed in Al Jazeera's programme 101 East [...] are indeed shocking.

"It is obvious that these allegations were not disclosed in the criminal proceedings pertaining to Altantuya's murder, which culminated in the conviction of Sirul Umar Hadri and Azilah Hadri by the Federal Court earlier this year.

"It is certainly premature for inspector general of police (IGP) Khalid Abu Bakar to dismiss the said allegations of Sirul without even questioning him on this," said Bukit Gelugor MP Ramkarpal Singh in a statement today.

He urged the IGP to disclose, "in the public's interest", if necessary steps have been taken to investigate Sirul in Australia "specifically in relation to the allegations of Al Jazeera".

To fail to do so, said Ramkarpal, would be a dereliction of duty.

"It would certainly be a dereliction of duty on his part if he failed to do so, as the murder of Altantuya, particularly, the question of who ordered the same cannot be left unanswered," he said.

In the half hour documentary on the gruesome murder of the Mongolian national, a relative of Sirul's revealed what he claimed was the ex-policeman's account to him of the details of what had transpired at the scene of the crime.

Sirul had allegedly sought the relative's help after he fled to Australia to escape his conviction.

Report lodged

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement shortly after the airing repeating denials that Prime Minister Najib Razak had any links to the case, and Communications and Multimedia Minister Salleh Said Keruak has accused Al Jazeera of being "malicious" in peddling distortion and lies.

The police are investigating Al Jazeera journalist Mary Ann Jolley over the report.

In the programme Jolley revealed she was deported in the midst of her investigations for the story.

Ramkarpal said Sirul's allegations as revealed in the programme "puts a completely different light on how Altantuya was murdered".

"In the circumstances, it is imperative for those allegations to be thoroughly investigated and for this purpose, Seri Delima assemblyperson RSN Rayer has lodged a police report, which I urge IGP Khalid Abu Bakar to investigate," he said.

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