

**Selva's assault: Minister won't interfere**  
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Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein has refused to get involved in police work to avoid being accused of interference in the detention of K Selvachandran.

"I am familiar with the case but then people will say I am interfering in police action," said Hishammuddin, when asked to comment on the case.

He evaded further questions as to whether Selvachandran is being held under any security law.

"Use our media centre for the details... they (the police) are the ones doing the investigation so ask them," said Hishammuddin.

Selvachandran, 30, had recently testified at an inquest to seeing a lance corporal at the Sentul police station kick detainee R Gunasegaran, who died in custody on July 16, 2009.

The inquest delivered an 'open' verdict on Monday.

The same night, Selvachandran was allegedly assaulted at his house and taken away by five police personnel.

His family has been told that he will be detained for 60 days, but that this could be extended up to two years.

Human rights NGO Suaram has said the police cannot hold anyone for more than 24 hours without a remand order, unless the detention is effected under the Internal Security Act, Emergency Ordinance or Dangerous Drugs Act.

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