

**Abdullah speaks up on rape allegation against Rais**  
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PETALING JAYA – Former prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he had kept silent on the alleged rape case involving Dr Rais Yatim because he believed the incident did not take place.

Denying that he had kept quiet in order to close the case and protect the Information Communication and Culture Minister, Abdullah said he thought the allegation by the blogger and the opposition was baseless.

In fact, the incident had never been reported to him throughout his tenure as Prime Minister from October 2003 to April 2009, he said at a media conference on the allegation that he had not issued a statement then because he wanted to protect the accused.

"I don't know (about the case). What is there to cover up?"

"What's the purpose of giving a statement? The accusation is not true. Now that you have asked, I give you the statement. I certainly did not receive any report on the allegation," he said in a Bernama report.

In the blog concerned, Rais, who was then the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, was alleged to have raped his former domestic maid in 2007 and that the Abdullah administration was alleged to have kept quiet in order to avoid a regional conflict.

On Wednesday, Rais had denied the allegation.

Yesterday, the detik.com news portal had reported that Rais's former domestic maid, who was alleged to have been raped, had denied the allegation against Rais.

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