

**Anwar Can Be Present During Interview Of Witnesses, Rules Court**  
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KUALA LUMPUR -- The High Court here allowed the presence of Anwar Ibrahim during the interview of 15 witnesses, including Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor.

Justice Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah ruled that the accused had the right to be there after meeting Anwar's counsels and deputy public prosecutors headed by Mohd Hanafiah Zakaria in his chambers today.

Both the prosecution and defence sought the directive of the trial judge today when two of the witnesses, former inspector-general of police Musa Hassan and ex-Melaka police chief Mohd Rodwan Mohd Yusof, protested yesterday against Anwar's presence during the interview.

Lawyer Karpal Singh told reporters with the court's directive, all the witnesses had to come to court as required by the defence.

"Anwar will be there and he has the right to be there and the investigation officer (IO) of this case will facilitate us to conduct the interviews with 10 of them already here today," said Karpal.

Asked whether there was any indication from the prosecution when Najib and Rosmah would be interviewed, Karpal said so far there was none but added it had to be before Anwar took his stand next Monday (Aug 15).

On Monday, Mohamad Zabidin granted Anwar's two applications to interview 15 witnesses including Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, his wife Rosmah Mansor, Musa, Rodwan and 11 others.

The judge then set Aug 15 to 26 for the defence case.

At the close of its case, the prosecution offered 71 witnesses, including Najib and Rosmah. The defence chose to interview only 25, and so far, only five had been interviewed.

They are ex-sprint queen Mumtaz Jaafar, Dr Mohd Osman Abd Hamid, formerly of Pusrawi, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan's youngest sister, Saidaiti Azlan, a Kuala Lumpur Hospital doctor known only as Dr Daniel, and Khairil Anaz Yusof, a special assistant to Najib when he was deputy prime minister.

On May 16, Justice Mohamad Zabidin ordered Anwar to enter his defence after ruling that the latter's former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, the complainant in the case, was a truthful and credible witness.

Anwar, 64, pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court on Aug 7, 2008, to committing carnal intercourse against the order of nature at Kondominium Desa Damansara in Bukit Damansara, between 3.10pm and 4.30pm on June 26, the same year.

**(Bernama)**