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Personal plea from PM to free Sharlinie

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has made a personal plea to whoever has taken five-year-old Sharlinie Mohd Nashar - give her back.

"I hope the person concerned realises the people's anger over this kidnapping. Everybody is angry with him. He must be brave, come forward and return her to her parents," he said. The girl went missing four days ago in Taman Medan.

He was speaking to reporters after attending the Prime Minister's Office Family Day event at his official residence Seri Perdana here yesterday.

Abdullah's plea to the abductor came after a nationwide search was

launched with posters distributed to the public to help find Sharlinie. She disappeared from a playground about 200m from her house on Wednesday.

The police have also set up a task force to trace the girl and border patrols are on alert for her.

This kidnapping comes in the wake of eight-year-old Nurin Jaslin Jazimin's abduction and killing in August last year.

Describing the abductor as a "cruel, heartless person", Abdullah, however, called on the public not to give up hope and to continue assisting the police in their search for Sharlinie.

"We must not give up hope looking or caring about her," he said.

"I am sad about what has happened and the police are continuing with their efforts to trace the girl and catch the culprit," Abdullah said, adding that the public should also come forward if they had any information about the kidnapping.

Abdullah also advised parents of young children to keep them in their sight and hold on to their hands at all times when outdoors or in public places.

"I would like to stress that at times like this parents must be vigilant about their children's safety. Don't let them out of your sight," he said.

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI