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## Marina Mahathir unsure if family reads her column

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**PETALING JAYA:** Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir may be noted for her long-running column in *The Star* but she is not sure if her family is among her faithful readers.

Responding to a question on whether she faced any pressure from home or society in her writing, the social activist replied: "At home there isn't any pressure, actually, from family. I think because maybe mostly they don't read my column, so they don't know what I'm saying."

"It's okay, keep it that way," she said with a laugh during the launch of *Dancing on Thin Ice*, a compilation of her articles that had appeared under the *Musings* column in *The Star*, mostly since 2012.

Also with Marina, a daughter of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, at the launch were her mother Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Berjaya Books Sdn Bhd director Hishammudin Hasan and Editions Didier Millet editorial director Martin Cross.

Marina, who has been writing in *The Star* since 1991, said, for her, it was a responsibility to say what



**Moment of pride:** Marina with Dr Siti Hasmah at the launch of her new book 'Dancing On Thin Ice' at Borders The Curve. Also present was Hishammudin.

needed to be said.

However, she does not feel specially protected but feels she still has to learn to tread carefully when it comes to the way she writes.

"I don't think I am specially pro-

tected in any way. I haven't spent a night in the lock-up but I think that is due to the way I write.

"I think I have developed a way of saying things in a way that just skims the surface.

"I think I get my point across. Most people get what I am trying to say," she said.

Later, when asked about the threats against G25 spokesperson Datuk Noor Farida Ariffin, Marina said the group's statement had been "twisted".

"In fact they (the critics) should focus on the more important issues that were raised by G25 concerning the Constitution and corruption," Marina said.

The group of eminent Malays has come under fire by political and religious leaders over its opposition to Syariah laws that intrude into a person's private domain, citing *khalwat* law.

Marina said the police, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and the Government should take stern action against people who threaten to sexually assault Noor Farida for her comments made at the G25-organised Islam in a Constitutional Democracy forum last Sunday.

"This is an ugly trend because every time a woman says something on such issues, they want to threaten her.

"I don't understand ... are they not embarrassed to say things like rape people?" Marina asked.