

**Defence wants Saiful, DPP recalled to answer affair allegation**  
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**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's lawyers have demanded the court recall Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan and Farah Azlina Latif to answer allegations of an affair between them, saying that it was necessary in order to ensure a "just decision" of the trial.

Defence counsel Karpal Singh dismissed the results of an investigation headed by the Attorney-General's Chambers which concluded that there was no basis for the allegation.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz had said in a written reply in Parliament to Karpal on November 10 that there was no evidence of an affair between Farah Azlina and Saiful.

Farah Azlina is a deputy public prosecutor who was part of the prosecution team in the ongoing sodomy trial.

However, the Padang Rengas MP said that Farah Azlina was removed from the prosecution team to avoid any further allegations of impropriety in Anwar's second sodomy trial that began 21 months ago.

"An independent inquiry would have been an answer and that one must be conducted by this court by recalling SP1 (Saiful) to deny the allegation under oath and summoning Farah Azlina as a witness to do likewise in court," Karpal said today during the defence's closing submissions of the trial.

Anwar and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail arrive at the Kuala Lumpur High Court for Anwar's sodomy trial on December 12, 2011. — Picture by Jack Ooi  
The veteran lawyer said that High Court judge Datuk Mohd Zabidin Mohd Diah had "ample powers" to do so under section 425 of the Criminal Procedure Code which allows "any court to... summon any person as a witness or any person in attendance... to examine or recall and re-examine any such person if his evidence appears to be essential to the just decision of the case."

He stressed that the court would be "abdicating" its duty if it did not summon the two, and pointed out that they have yet to deny the allegation.

Karpal said if the affair did indeed take place, Saiful would have had "access to the investigation papers and accordingly tailor his evidence to the detriment of the defence."

Opposition Leader Anwar had tried to strike out the sodomy charge following controversial blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin's allegations in August 2010 that Saiful and Farah Azlina were in a sexual relationship.

But the High Court ruled that there was no abuse of process as the DPP's role was "limited, therefore Farah Azlina had no access to any investigation papers, including any documents."

Judge Datuk Mohd Zabidin Mohd Diah made the decision despite noting that the prosecution team had not answered the defence's affidavit concerning the alleged affair, "so the court

must accept what has been said as the truth.”

He had also refused to call Saiful and Farah Azlina to answer allegations about their “affair” during the former deputy prime minister’s trial.

Anwar, who was once next in line to be PM, was toppled from power when he was first charged with sodomy and corruption in 1998.

The then-deputy prime minister was sacked from the Cabinet and was later convicted and jailed for both offences.

He was freed in September 2004 after the Federal Court overturned his sodomy conviction and resurrected his career by winning his old Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat in a 2008 by-election.

He also led the opposition coalition to a historic sweep of five states and 82 parliamentary seats in Election 2008.

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