

Anwar slams Home Minister's quick dismissal of alleged police link to Sanjeevan shooting

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BY JENNIFER GOMEZ

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim took Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to task for quickly dismissing police involvement in the shooting of anti-crime watchdog chief R. Sri Sanjeevan last Saturday.

"He should not be too quick in dismissing anything. He should allow police to carry out a thorough investigation first," said Anwar.

"This is the problem with Umno politicians. This is an assassination attempt and there is evidence of previous threats on the victim. I regret that this came from Zahid."

Sanjeevan was shot while he was in his car in Bahau town with a friend. He is currently in stable but critical condition at the Seremban Hospital. He is scheduled to undergo surgery soon for a gunshot wound to his chest.

Anwar said police need to beef up security at the hospital where Sanjeevan is warded, adding that it was grossly inadequate.

He also urged Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar to ensure that the taskforce set up to investigate the shooting did not include policemen remotely related to the complaints made by Sanjeevan.

The police must also investigate Sanjeevan's complaints of certain rogue elements in the force," said Anwar at a Press conference held at the PKR headquarters in Tropicana, Petaling Jaya.

Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli, who was present, said Sanjeevan had told him that he was in possession of an internal memo with the "sulit" stamped on it, but he had not seen the list himself.

"Sanjeevan insisted there were a number of people on the list and that the offences were serious. These policemen were being probed for their alleged links to drug syndicates," Rafizi said.

He said it was important not to preclude anything for now, and the probe by police must not just stop at this link, as the links with the underworld could also involve other parts of the home ministry.

"If Sanjeevan was to disclose the internal memo, it could provide a different perspective altogether on this issue of crime, particularly the relationship between underworld, police and possibly the home ministry," said Rafizi.

Another PKR politician, R. Sivarasa, meanwhile said that looking at the manner of the shooting, it was clear that it was carried out by hired killers.

Sivarasa said Zahid and the IGP must appreciate the fact that former IGP Tan Sri Musa Hassan had come out clearly to say there is a connection between Sanjeevan's shooting and

his expose of policemen being linked to the underworld.

To date, only Sanjeevan's friend who was with him during the shooting has been detained. That too, police had said, was related to a drug offence and not to the attack on Sanjeevan.
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