

Set up inquiry into shooting of five in Penang by police, says DAP
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DAP has demanded for an inquiry into the shooting of five men by the police in Penang, which has led to allegations that they were executed.

Puchong MP and DAP National Legal Bureau chairman Gobind Singh Deo said if police could not justify their action, it must face the consequences.

“Wide powers are given to the police to use weapons but these powers are not without limitation. In cases where arrests may be made without the need to shoot and kill, such killings cannot be justified,” he said in a statement today.

He urged the Attorney-General to give an assurance that there will be an open inquiry and that there would be no cover up into the matter.

Yesterday, the five said to be members of the 04 gang, were killed in a shootout with police when a police team stormed an apartment in Sungai Nibong where the five were alleged to be hiding out.

The Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar had told reporters that the suspects shot at the police first, who were then forced to return fire in self-defence.

The five suspects, whom Khalid alleged were involved in at least 10 murders and two attempted murders in Kedah, Penang and Negeri Sembilan, were killed in the 4.30am incident. Police also recovered three firearms and several rounds of ammunition at the scene.

The families of the dead men have lodged four police reports demanding for an inquest into their deaths.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department P. Waythamoorthy had also called for an inquest to be set up to probe the incident.

Earlier today, the Penang police had maintained that they adopted the standard operating procedure in the raid.

Bernama had reported that the Penang chief police officer Datuk Abdul Rahim Hanafi denied that the police fired more than 30 shots at the suspects without identifying themselves as claimed by the dead men’s families. – August 20, 2013.

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