

**Three PKR youth leaders charged for KL Black 505 rally**  
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**BY RITA JONG**

Three PKR youth leaders became the third group charged over the June Black505 rally, which was held in Padang Merbok, in Kuala Lumpur.

PKR's national youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, his deputy Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin and Negeri Sembilan PKR youth chief Nazree Yunus claimed trial at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court today.

They allegedly participated in the rally which was held near a mosque in Universiti Malaya between 12.30pm and 1.15pm on June 22.

Shamsul Iskandar, who is also the Bukit Katil MP, Khairul Anuar and Nazree were charged under Section 4(2)(b) of the Peaceful Assembly Act which prohibited gatherings near places of worship.

They are liable to a fine of up to RM10,000 upon conviction.

Two weeks ago, seven individuals including two politicians - PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli and DAP socialist youth chief Anthony Loke - were charged with failing to give the mandatory 10 days notice to the police for the Black505 Padang Merbok rally. They were charged in their capacity as the event organisers.

A week later, 33 activists were also charged with participating in a rally in front of the Parliament building and with rioting.

In court today, deputy public prosecutor Nurul Huda Mohd Nor proposed a personal bond of RM2,000 each.

Counsel Yusmadi Yusof and A. Jayaseelan proposed a lower bond of RM1,000.

Yusmadi said they will be challenging the issue that the place of worship should not be a place where public assembly is prohibited.

"If you gather at a mosque, the obvious inference was that they were there to pray," he said.

Judge Mat Ghani Abdullah granted the three personal bond of RM2,000 each without deposit.

He fixed September 23 for mention and December 11 to 13 for trial.

After proceedings, Yusmadi told reporters that he may consider filing an application at the High Court to seek a declaration that the mosque should not be included in the schedule as a place where the public is prohibited to assemble.

"This is against the religious freedom and movement. The charge stated that the three were there between noon and 1.15pm," he said.

"This is the time they go to the mosque to pray."

He said Hari Raya was near so it is nothing strange about people assembling there to pray.

The Black505 rally, which saw some 20,000 people taking to the streets, was held to express dissatisfaction with the results of the 13th general election held on May 5, claiming fraud and irregularities. - August 6, 2013.

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