

Christian and Muslim groups converge on the Palace of Justice for Allah appeal
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A crowd comprising Muslim and Christian groups have gathered outside the Court of Appeal as it hears Putrajaya's appeal in the Allah case.

The rain this morning did little to dampen their spirits with many of them gathering as early as 6am outside the Palace of Justice.

The police set up counters outside the court to screen people and media personnel going into the courtroom for the case.

Apart from Malay right wing group Perkasa and other Malay rights groups such as Pekida and Yayasan Dakwah Islam Malaysia (Yadim), several Christian groups from Sabah and Sarawak were in the crowd.

The representatives from the Christian groups identified by The Malaysian Insider included Sidang Injil Borneo Sabah, Sabah Council of Churches and the Association of Churches Sarawak.

The Council of Churches and the Christian Federation of Malaysia and the Sidang Injil Borneo Semenanjung representatives were also present.

The Allah row erupted in early 2009 when the Home Ministry threatened to revoke the Herald's permit for using the word when referring to God.

This action prompted the Catholic Church to sue the government for violating its constitutional rights.

On December 31, 2009, in a landmark ruling, the High Court allowed the church's judicial review application and lifted the home minister's ban on the use of the word in the Herald.

Among other things, judge Lau Bee Lan said that the church had a constitutional right to use the word Allah in its newspaper on grounds that religions other than Islam can be practised in peace and harmony. - September 10, 2013.

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