

**New trust in memory of DAP aide to help victims of custodial deaths, torture**  
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**BY LEE SHI-IAN AND TAN SZE LING**

Victims of political persecution, torture and custodial deaths now have an avenue to seek assistance, thanks to a new trust set up in memory of Teoh Beng Hock, the late DAP officer who died under mysterious circumstances in 2009.

Teoh's youngest sister, Lee Lan, said the Teoh Beng Hock Trust for Democracy is meant for all Malaysians to help families of victims in seeking redress.

"The trust will facilitate and assist family of victims of political persecutions, torture and deaths in custody in seeking redresses from Putrajaya.

"It will also provide legal, social, counselling and other support for the victims and their families," she said.

In July, Teoh, the political aide of Seri Kembangan state assemblyman Ean Yong Hian Wah, was arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). Hours later, he was found dead on the rooftop of a building adjacent to the MACC.

Lee Lan noted that five years after her brother's death, the truth had yet to emerge despite numerous legal battles.

Trustee Dr Wong Chin Huat said nobody had been fired or sacked, or charged in court, over Teoh's death.

"The life of a Malaysian is completely worthless," Wong said, adding that the objective of the trust was to ensure that there would be no recurrence of Teoh's tragedy.

"We want to ensure that a Malaysian can walk into any enforcement agency and walk back out safely.

"No parent should lose their children, no wife or husband should lose their spouse and no children should lose their parents."

Wong said the trust would also fight for democracy in Malaysia, and provide human rights and democracy lessons for the public.

He said unlike Teoh's case which received wide media coverage, there were other custodial deaths which did not attract much attention due to negative public perception on the victims.

"This should not be the case, as no Malaysian, regardless of whatever they may have done, deserves to be tortured or subjected to such treatment.

"The purpose of the trust is to make Teoh the last victim in such mysterious and dubious circumstances."

Meanwhile, Lee Lan said the trust was a way of warning government agencies of carrying out their duties without infringing on human rights and resorting to dubious interrogation methods.

"We want to reach out to all Malaysians, if something happens to you or your family, you are not alone." she said. – July 16, 2014.

- See more at:  
<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/new-trust-in-memory-of-dap-aide-to-help-victims-of-custodial-deaths-torture#sthash.ZAGBfnxT.dpuf>

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