

**PAS member lodges report over pro-PPS Friday sermon**  
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**BY LOOI SUE-CHERN**

A PAS member in Penang has lodged a police report against a "khatib", or preacher, who voiced support for the state's voluntary patrol unit (PPS).

Arif Ibrahim, 42, lodged the report yesterday evening, expressing shock that the khatib had made such a remark while delivering his Friday sermon at Masjid Acheh Lama on Jalan Terengganu.

In his police report, Arif, who said he was an ordinary PAS member from Bayan Baru, said the khatib also condemned the federal government and the police over the issue.

"I am unhappy about it so I am lodging the report. In my opinion, the khatib had insulted the government and the police.

"The way he made the remarks was as if he was inciting the jemaah (congregation) to hate the government and the police," he wrote in his report that was lodged at the northeast district police headquarters.

District police chief Assistant Commissioner Mior Faridalatrash Wahid told reporters today via messages on Whatsapp that the case is being investigated under Section 4(1)(b) of the Sedition Act.

"We will call the khatib to give his statement," he said but did not say when.

The state government argued that the unit is legitimate while federal authorities regard it illegal.

Last Sunday, 156 PPS members taking part in a state-level Merdeka Day celebration were arrested by the police.

State exco Phee Boon Poh and Seri Delima assemblyman R.S.N. Rayer were also detained that day. A few days later, Tanjong MP Ng Wei Aik was also picked up for his involvement in the unit. All have since been released on police bail.

Yesterday, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said state Pakatan Rakyat government leaders were willing to be arrested along with PPS members.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has described the unit's volunteers as "gangsters" and said there was no need for PPS or any other organisation to take over the police's duties. – September 6, 2014.

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