

Mount Kinabalu strippers remanded for four days

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By Desmond Davidson

Police have obtained a four-day remand order against four foreigners – two Canadian sisters, a Dutch man and a British woman – over their alleged indecent behaviour of stripping on top of Mount Kinabalu on May 30.

The magistrate's court in Kota Kinabalu granted the police until Saturday to facilitate investigations into the case, now classified under Section 294(a) of the Penal Code which carries a three-month jail term if found guilty.

The suspects are now being held at the Karamunsing police station lock-up.

The two sisters and the Dutch surrendered themselves at the Karamunsing police station at about 6pm on Tuesday, while the British woman was arrested in Tawau the same day as she was about to depart for Kuala Lumpur.

Sabah police commissioner Datuk Jalaluddin Abdul Rahman in a press conference earlier said police considered the case closed as the four had "confessed" their action.

He said police had opened an investigation into the alleged stripping on the mountain on June 2, after a report was lodged at the Ranau police station.

A task force was assembled to track down and arrest the Westerners with the first arrest made on Monday at the Kota Kinabalu airport at about 4.10pm. Police later found that the man was not one of the suspects and released him.

Facebook postings of pictures of nude foreigners on top of the mountain angered many KadazanDusuns in Sabah who consider the mountain, a World Heritage site, sacred as it is the resting place of their dead.

The KadazanDusuns blamed the nude foreigners for last Friday's earthquake which struck Ranau, a town less than 17km from the mountain, saying they had angered the spirits of their ancestors on the mountain.

The 5.9-magnitude quake shook the mountain, sending rocks crashing down on climbers and killing 18 of them, mostly Singapore school pupils on a mountain climbing programme.

The last two who were unaccounted for – 13-year-old Singaporean schoolboy Navdeep Singh Jaryal and his 35-year-old teacher Mohammad Ghazy Muhamad – have been identified by Singaporean police from body parts sent to them for disaster verification identification.

The nude foreigners were also alleged to have urinated on the mountain, an act chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Sabah Park Datuk Seri Tengku Zainal Adlin

said was taboo as it was disrespectful.

He described the action as akin to someone urinating inside a temple or mosque. –
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