

Justo Claims Recipients Talked Of Tampering Data, Sarawak Report Editor Refutes Allegation - The Straits Times

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Swiss national Xavier Andre Justo, who is being held in Thailand over blackmail charges, told The Straits Times of Singapore that recipients of the data related to 1Malaysia Development Berhad had talked of tampering with the information he had given them.

"I gave the original documents without any kind of alteration. I can say that I gave those documents to two groups of people," he was quoted as saying in the daily's online report Friday.

Justo, a former employee of PetroSaudi International which has a joint venture with 1MDB, gave an exclusive interview to the English daily at the Bangkok Remand Prison.

According to The Straits Times report, Justo claimed that he had met in Singapore Claire Rewcastle-Brown, editor of The Sarawak Report news portal, and 'her IT guy' as well as a Malaysian businessman and his colleague.

According to the newspaper, Justo alleged that those he met had talked about using the documents "to try to bring down the Malaysian government", and said that they also referred to plans to "modify the documents".

The Straits Times quoted Rewcastle-Brown as refuting vehemently those allegations, and claiming that Justo was "full of untruths".

The daily also revealed that Justo had intended to sell the stolen company data to a prominent Malaysian businessman for US\$2 million (RM7.6 million).

However, he claimed he was never paid after a deal was reached between him and the businessman in Singapore in February.

Justo was quoted by the daily as saying that he had arranged for the payment to be transferred through bank accounts several times, but one attempt was refused by a bank in Singapore and the other attempts were refused by the buyer (of the data).

He also claimed that the buyer had offered to pay him in cash.

"So I was supposed to go to Singapore every week or every other week to receive an envelope with a few thousand or tens of thousands, and repeat this process for months until the final amount will have been paid. And again I refused," Justo was quoted saying in The Straits Times.

The Straits Times quoted him as saying that Rewcastle-Brown had agreed to receive the

US\$2 million from the buyer and send him US\$250,000 a month for consultancy services.

"I don't know if she received the money or not, (because) I was arrested," he said. "I have no idea," he added.

The newspaper reported that Rewcastle-Brown rubbished the allegations as 'bunkum'.

Thai police arrested Justo on June 22 at his residence on Koh Samui Island.

Justo, a former head of IT at the London office of PetroSaudi, is under remand in Thailand pending possible charges of trying to blackmail his former employer.

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