

Millionaire Sosilawati, aides could have been murdered by someone else, court told
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Cosmetics millionaire Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya and her three aides could have been murdered by someone else, the Court of Appeal in Putrajaya heard today.

Counsel Amer Hamzah Arshad representing one of the four accused, R. Matan, said it was reasonable for the court to infer such probability as there was no motive for any of the accused to murder the four persons.

He said there were several unknown male DNA profiles on a cricket bat, two cigarette butts, bloodstains and fingerprint which were discovered in the workers' quarters located in the farm.

He said none of the accused persons' DNA were found on any of the exhibits.

There were also evidence that other individuals had motives to eliminate Sosilawati, he said.

He said there was no DNA evidence of any of the accused on the zinc sheets found at Sungai Kelanang, or evidence to show that the zinc sheets originated from the farm.

Former lawyer N. Pathmanabhan, 45, and farmhands T. Thilaiyalagan, 23, Matan, 24, and R.Kathavarayan, 35, are appealing the Shah Alam High Court's decision to convict and sentence them to death for the murder of Sosilawati, 47, bank officer Noorhisham Mohamad, 38, lawyer Ahmad Kamil Abdul Karim, 32, and Sosilawati's driver Kamaruddin Shamsuddin, 44.

They were accused of committing the offence at Lot 2001, Jalan Tanjong Layang, Tanjung Sepat, in Banting between 8.30pm and 9.45pm on August 30, 2010.

Amer Hamzah also said there was no evidence to show that the four accused were on the farm on the day of the alleged murder.

He said the testimony of a helper at the farm, Siti Hamidah Karnax, that she saw logs being brought to the farm on the day before the alleged incident and that Thilaiyalagan, Matan, Kathavarayan and U. Suresh were seen unloading the logs and placing them near the cowshed were doubtful and did not prove anything sinister as there were other people working on the farm.

"There is no evidence that Matan was planning anything with any of the other accused either on August 29, 2010, or on August 30, 2010," he said while calling for his client's acquittal.

He said the suggestion that the four persons were murdered and subsequently burned on the farm could not be sustained as no trace of hydrocarbon was detected at the

suspected site on the farm by the trained dogs from the fire department.

"There can never be fire without any evidence of combustion or accelerant," he said.

Pathmanabhan was represented by counsel Manjeet Singh Dhillon, Thilaiyalagan by Gurbachan Singh and Hisyam Teh Poh Teik and Kathavarayan by M. Stanislaus Vethanayagam.

The prosecution team was led by deputy public prosecutor Ishak Mohd Yusoff. Hearing continues tomorrow. – Bernama, August 11, 2015.

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