

**All Parties Should Respect Malaysia's Legal Process - Prime Minister's Office**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- All parties, including those overseas should respect the Malaysian legal process, the judgment of Malaysia's courts and the rights of the victim to seek justice.

The Prime Minister's Office in a statement tonight said Malaysia had an independent judiciary with many rulings going against senior government figures.

"The government does not have the power or authority to overrule the decisions of the courts," it said.

The statement was released in response to the United Nations' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention claim that former opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's detention was arbitrary, and that his sodomy charges were politically motivated to discredit him.

On Feb 17, the Federal Court dismissed Anwar's final appeal for the offence of sodomising his former personal assistant, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, seven years ago and upheld the guilty verdict and five-year imprisonment sentence imposed on him.

The Prime Minister's Office said the final verdict in this case was reached by the courts after exhaustive and comprehensive legal processes had been followed over many years.

The Federal Court judges would have upheld the Court of Appeal's guilty verdict only after considering all the evidence, it said.

"It was not the government but the victim, Saiful Bukhari Azlan, a private individual and Anwar Ibrahim's employee, that lodged the police report and brought the case.

"Anwar was convicted of a crime and this was a criminal and not a political case. It had nothing to do with the government," it said.

Earlier in Parliament, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed also commented on Anwar's daughter, Nurul Izzah's (PKR-Lembah Pantai) remarks during the sitting regarding the United Nations' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention claim.

The party had no right to question the court's decision, he said in a Whatsapp message to Bernama.

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