

Case closed, says Zahid on Taman Medan church protest
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By Jennifer Gomez

The government will not take action against a group of protesters who last April forced a church in Taman Medan to remove its cross, Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today.

In a written reply to Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad's question on the status of investigations into the incident, the home minister said the police had completed the probe, and the Attorney-General's Chambers had deemed it as "no further action".

"The investigation papers were completed and forwarded to the Attorney-General's Chambers, which has decided NFA (no further action)," Zahid said.

On April 19, some 50 people gathered outside the Community of Praise Petaling Jaya Church, located in a shophot in Taman Medan, demanding that the cross affixed to the building facade be taken down.

They said the cross was a challenge to Islam and would sway the faith of Muslims in the area.

Among the protesters was Datuk Abdullah Abu Bakar, the brother of Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, who said he was there to help calm the situation.

"I saw that they were quite wild in their comments, making uncalled-for remarks.

"So I tried to defuse the situation by suggesting that we meet the church leader. We never questioned whether she had authority or not.

"We just asked, as a temporary measure, for her to take down the cross so I can ask the people to disperse," Abdullah, who was quizzed by Petaling Jaya police over his involvement, had said later.

Following the incident, Selangor Menteri Besar Mohamed Azmin Ali said that the church should put back the cross on the building's facade as it was the symbol of Christianity.

The Selangor government also clarified that churches did not need permit to hold services in shophots or commercial properties, and that only a notification of their activities to the state's Council on Non-Islam Affairs was required. – December 2, 2015.

Source:

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