

LENGTHY PROCESS

MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

Post-mortem on Nora's remains began at 11.45am yesterday; cops say statement to be issued today

SEREMBAN

THE post-mortem examination of the remains of Irish teen Nora Anne Quoirin has turned into a marathon of sorts.

The examination by a team of senior pathologists, led by Dr Siew Sheue Feng from Kuala Lumpur Hospital, was still going on at press time, nine hours after it began at 11.45am yesterday.

A press conference scheduled for 5pm to announce the initial results of the examination was postponed to 8pm, but as that hour came and went, there was still no sign of senior police officers to update the media.

When Negri Sembilan deputy police chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Che Zakaria Othman appeared, he said the post-mortem examination was ongoing, so police could not release any details.

"I made a decision based on the instructions of state police chief (Datuk Mohamad Mat Yusop) that a statement would only be issued at a time to be advised tomorrow (today).

"There is also no new development at the scene (where Nora's body was found) that I have to report," he told reporters who had stationed themselves outside the Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital mortuary as early as 6.30am yesterday.

Che Zakaria declined to answer any questions.

While a post-mortem examination generally takes a long time, the fact that this one has taken so long left many questions lingering in the minds of all those following the case.

The case has left many unanswered questions, the most crucial one being what happened to Nora. Did she wander off on her



Irish teen Nora Anne Quoirin's mother, Meabh Jaseprine Quoirin, leaving Tuanku Ja'afar Hospital's Forensic Unit in Seremban yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

own or was she abducted? Did she fall and injure herself? Or was she killed and her body dumped there? What was the cause of death?

These were the answers that were expected to be answered by the post-mortem examination.

But there is another question that may be answered only later on in the investigation, or may never be solved at all: how is it that rescuers missed Nora's body in the area where it was found if, as police said, the place had been covered by them earlier?

The body of Nora, the eldest of three children of Sebastien Marie Philippe and Meabh Jaseprine Quoirin, was found on the 10th day after she was reported missing.

The family had arrived in Malaysia for a two-week holiday and checked in at the resort the day before her disappearance.

On Aug 4, the family discovered Nora, who has special needs, missing. A large window in one of the rooms was left open.

The family had insisted that the 15-year-old had been abducted, but police classified it as a missing person case due to the fact that there was no evidence supporting an abduction.

A massive search-and-rescue operation was mounted with more than 300 policemen, including members of the famed Senoi Praaq general operations force battalion, as well as officials from other government agencies. Orang Asli villagers and other volunteers also lent a hand.

Helicopters equipped with infrared radar were deployed in the search.

Even though the family was kept away from the search to keep them safe considering the terrain of the search area was treacherous, they did their bit, with a recording of Meabh's voice urging Nora to come home being blasted on loudspeakers by rescuers. T

he family also offered a reward of £10,000 (about RM50,000) for finding her.