



INQUEST VERDICT

ADIB'S DEATH 'CAUSED BY 2 OR MORE PEOPLE'

Fireman's blunt chest trauma not self-inflicted or accident, rules court

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THE death of fireman Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim, 24, was a result of a criminal act by more than two people, an inquest ruled nine months after his death.

Coroner Rofiah Mohamad said Adib's blunt chest trauma was not self-inflicted or an accident, but due to the impact of a criminal act by two or more people.

As Rofiah delivered her findings, Adib's family and fiancée Nurul Najihah Mohd Radzi, who were present, burst into tears.

Rofiah said the police's failure

to control the riot that led to the fire at the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Subang Jaya on Nov 27 last year contributed to Adib's death.

"If police and the Federal Reserve Unit had controlled the riot, a vehicle would not have been set on fire, firemen would not have to be there and Adib would not have died."

Present was Subang Jaya Fire and Rescue Department head Syed Shahril Anuar Syed Sulaiman.

After 41 days, on July 24, Rofiah closed the inquest proceedings to determine the cause of Adib's death.

Adib was reported to have been critically injured during an incident when he and a team of firemen answered a distress call about a vehicle on fire during the riot.

Accidentally left behind by his teammates, he was taken to the Subang Jaya Medical Centre and later transferred to the National Heart Institute.

Despite showing signs of recovery, he died on Dec 17.

Rofiah said the court accepted

the testimony of the 29th witness, United Kingdom-based senior consultant forensic pathologist Professor Dr Shahrom Abd Wahid, who said Adib was beaten and dragged out of the Fire and Rescue Department's Emergency Services Assistance Unit van.

She said the court accepted the theory presented by Dr Shahrom that Adib was injured when he was pinned to the door of the van, which was forcibly kicked by rioters.

Deputy public prosecutor Faten Hadni Khairuddin acted as the coordinating officer in the inquest, while Adib's family was represented by a panel of lawyers comprising Syazlin Mansor, Mohd Kamaruzaman Abdul Wahab, Ahmad Taufiq Baharum, Yahya Othman and Zamri Ibrahim.

Senior federal counsel Suzana Atan and Mazlifah Ayob from the Attorney-General's Chambers represented the Housing and Local Government Ministry and the Fire and Rescue Department. **Additional reporting by Dawn Chan**



Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim's brother, Muhammad Asyraf Mohd Kassim (third from left) leaving the Shah Alam court complex yesterday. PIX BY ROSLIN MAT TAHIR

Family members happy with ruling

ALOR STAR: Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim's family said they felt vindicated following the Coroner's court ruling yesterday.

His mother, Asma Aziz, 52, said although she was thankful for the decision, she was still not satisfied as those responsible for her son's death were not arrested.

"I can't get my son back. So I hope that those involved will be arrested and brought to justice."

"I want to see the faces of those who beat up my son," she said at her house in Kampung Tebengau, Kuala Kedah.

She said she and her husband cried when family members told them about the verdict.

"We wanted to go to the court, but we feared that the result will not be in our favour, so we decided not to go."

"But, we will go (to Kuala Lumpur) this (yesterday) afternoon to see our family members," she said.

Her husband, Mohd Kassim,

64, said he was happy with the decision and wanted to see the perpetrators being charged in court.

In **Shah Alam**, Adib's brother, Muhammad Asyraf Mohd Kassim, could not hold back his tears upon hearing the verdict.

He said he was happy with the verdict, although more needed to be done to seek justice for Adib.

"My parents were glad with the decision. We will hold a special prayer for him soon."

"I hope the authorities will continue to investigate and arrest those who beat my brother to death."

"We want them to be brought to justice."

Asyraf was swarmed by lawyers and representatives of non-governmental organisations who wanted to congratulate him on the verdict.

He smiled and thanked everyone who helped the family during the 41-day inquest.

Adib's fiancée, Nurul Najihah

Mohd Radzi, 26, said she was satisfied with the court decision.

"Praise be to God. I am very happy with the court decision."

Subang Jaya Fire and Rescue Department head Syed Shahril Anuar Syed Sulaiman declined to comment.

Syed Shahril, who was one of the witnesses during the inquest, said he could not give his comment as the case was under police investigation.

"I am sorry, but I cannot comment further," he said in between tears.

When asked about the decision, he said: "Only God knows what I feel right now."

Fire and Rescue Services Department Union president Zainal Abidin Nong Chik hoped the verdict would bring justice to Adib.

Zainal, who led the union en-tourage, said they came to support Adib's family and represented firefighters nationwide.

"We are not here to rally. We are representing the country's firefighters."

DPM: People must respect verdict

PUTRAJAYA: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail yesterday urged everyone to remain calm and not politicise the inquest verdict of firefighter Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim's cause of death.

She said the people must respect the verdict and not turn it into a racial issue.

"We are equal before the law. If you're wrong, you have to face the law," she said at the launch of Karnival Rahmah 2019 near here.

The Coroner's Court yesterday ruled that Adib's death was a result of a criminal act.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is women, family and community development minister, said those respon-

sible for Adib's death must face justice.

"Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador had said the police would reinvestigate the case. So, let them investigate."

"The ministry sent two counsellors to court today (yesterday) to provide counselling to Adib's family."

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Mujahid Yusof Rawa said the carnival, themed "Rahmatan Lill Alami (universal compassion)" was inclusive and could easily be understood.

"The Rahmah concept is for everyone. That's the teaching of Islam."



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at the launch of Karnival Rahmah 2019 in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR