

2 plead not guilty to illegal assembly

Kuala Lumpur, Wed: Two men who pleaded guilty last month to a charge of being involved in an illegal assembly changed their plea in a magistrate's court and claimed trial together with two others today.

Estate worker-cum-sundry shop owner Abdul Rahim Hassan, 36, and businessman Othman Hassan, 49, pleaded not guilty before magistrate Kamarul Zaman Abdul Rahman.

Others who also pleaded not guilty were contractor Ismail Subidi, 35, and final-year medical student Syakirin Muhamed Senin, 23, at the Jalan Raja magistrate's court.

The primary charge against the four men states that, on Sept 21, at about 10.45pm, they had taken part in an illegal gathering at the vacant space opposite Bukit Jalil Light Rail Transit station in Cheras, and defied police orders to disperse.

If found guilty, they face

a fine of between RM2,000 and RM10,000 and a year's jail.

An alternative charge also states that, for taking part in the gathering mentioned in the first charge, for which they did not have a licence from the Cheras district police chief, the accused can be punished under Section 143 of the Penal Code.

If found guilty, this would involve a prison term of up to six months, or a fine, or both.

Three of the four men were defended by Jerald Allen Gomez, who also appeared on behalf of Mohamed Hanipa Maidin who is representing Abdul Rahim.

Fatnin Yusof appeared for the prosecution.

The magistrate fixed the hearing for March 23 and 24 next year, as the court is already booked with trials of a hundred others on the same charge of illegal assembly.

Case of unlawful assembly postponed

KUALA LUMPUR: A magistrate's court yesterday postponed the case of five people for offences relating to unlawful assembly to Sept 29.

Defence counsel Jerald Allen Gomez asked for a postponement so as to make a written application to the Attorney-General's Chambers to withdraw charges against one of the accused, Syakirin Mohd Senin, 24.

Gomez said this was because Syakirin, a fifth-year medical student at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, would not be awarded his degree if convicted.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Asmah Musa said she had no objection.

The five are charged with not heeding police orders to disperse and taking part in an unlawful assembly without a licence at 10.45pm on Sept 21, 1998, at the Bukit Jalil LRT station.

AR TUESDAY August 17 1999

Ex-IGP did not order men to be stripped'

K. SAITHURUKA

KUALA LUMPUR: A Federal Reserve Unit member told a magistrate's court yesterday that Tan Sri him Noor had never instructed his officers to strip two men caught in an unlawful assembly and examine if they were sodomised by Datuk Seri Iwar Ibrahim.

L/Kpl Jamaluddin Yusof disagreed with defence counsel Jerald Allen Gomez that the incident had occurred in a room of former Inspector-Gener-

al of Police at Bukit Aman on Sept 21 last year.

He was testifying against businessman Abdul Rahim Hassan and medical student Syakirin Mohd Senin, charged with three others for not heeding police orders to disperse and taking part in an unlawful assembly on Sept 21, 1998, at 10.45pm at the Bukit Jalil LRT station.

The three others are businessman Othman Hassan, 50, contractor Ismail Salbidi, 37, and ship captain Badaruddin Hassan, 33.

Jamaluddin said (former IGP) Rahim never told his officers to open Abdul Rahim's trousers or said: "Mungkin orang ini telah diliwat oleh Anwar. Periksa." (Maybe this man has been sodomised by Anwar. Check him).

However, he said he was not sure if it was normal to take Abdul Rahim, 37, and Syakirin, 24, who were arrested in Bukit Jalil, all the way to the former IGP's office in the middle of the night.

Jamaluddin said when they were in

the room, Rahim had asked for particulars of the two and instructed the officers to make reports but agreed that the information could have been contained without Rahim around.

Replying to counsel Mohd Hani Maidin (appearing for Abdul Rahim and Badaruddin), Jamaluddin said did not hit Abdul Rahim with a bat on the way to Bukit Aman.

He disagreed that he was scared to give a statement on the former IGP as it would affect his "rice bowl".

The hearing continues today.

Medical student appeals against illegal assembly charge

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: A final-year medical student, charged with illegal assembly, is appealing to the Attorney-General to drop the charge so as not to jeopardise his studies.

Syakirin Mohd Senin, 24, will be making a written appeal to ask for the charges to be withdrawn, his counsel Jerald Allen Gomez informed the magistrate's court today.

Syakirin is charged with

Hassan, 37, and Othman Hassan, 50, contractor Ismail Salbidi, 36, and ship captain Badaruddin Hassan, 33.

They are alleged to have disobeyed police orders to disperse in front of the Bukit Jalil LRT station at about 10.45pm on Sept 21.

They face an alternate charge of intentionally participating in an illegal assembly at the same place and time. The magistrate set Sept

The Sun Wednesday August 18, 1999