



# Selangor Times

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I got a call from the daycare centre that my child wasn't breathing. It took me 15 minutes to rush from work to the centre only to find my baby already stiff.  
- Tai

## Stop daycare deaths

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Yvonne (left) and Tai at the press conference.

then asked for the recordings from a security camera above the baby's cot but was told that they were not functioning.

She explained that the reason she paid the premium price of RM850 per month to the centre was because of the apparent security features they showcased.

"If they represented that they have closed-circuit television (CCTV)

cameras, they should make the recordings available," said Tai's lawyer Datin Yvonne Raj.

Yvonne hopes the petition is successful because many working parents have no choice but to rely on daycare centres to take care of children.

According to her, there have been 14 deaths at daycares centres around the country in the first six months of

the year.

"We're not trying to make it hard for people (with the petition). We're not forcing them to close down but it (regulation) is important," she added.

The entire petition can be read and signed at [chang.org/petitions/the-minister-ministry-of-women-family-community-development-give-us-safe-and-secure-childcare-centres](http://chang.org/petitions/the-minister-ministry-of-women-family-community-development-give-us-safe-and-secure-childcare-centres).

By Basil Foo

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The recent death of a baby boy at an unregistered daycare centre in Shah Alam has spurred an online campaign for stricter regulations by child advocacy group Voice of the Children.

Three-month-old Tan Yan Xue was found dead on March 23 in one of the estimated 2,000 unregistered centres, based on Social Welfare Department data, operating across the country.

"Unregistered centres are the problem. There also have been cases of babies falling out of cots and breaking bones," said VoC chairperson Sharmila Sekaran (pic) at a press conference recently.

The petition is calling on the government to ensure all childcare centres are registered, all staff undergo training and for annual inspections.

VoC is also pressing for a one-year moratorium for the centres to become licensed before closure for those which fail to comply.



Also at the press conference was Tan's mother Tai Loon Eng who described the experience of losing her first child and why she is backing the petition.

"I got a call from the daycare centre that my child wasn't breathing. It took me 15 minutes to rush from work to the centre only to find my baby already stiff," she said.

The 30-year-old executive said she