

Susilo tells Siti to be strong

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PETALING JAYA: Abused maid Siti Hajar had a pleasant surprise yesterday — a phone call from Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Susilo spoke to Siti, who is still recovering at University Malaya Medical Centre, at noon for five minutes.

The president consoled her, urging her to be strong in the face of her trials and to recover fast from injuries.

He spoke to her on the mobile phone of Indonesian ambassador to Malaysia Tan Sri Da'i Bachtiar.

Da'i, according to Indonesian embassy's Minister Counselor of Information, Social

and Culture Department Wid-yarka Ryananta, visited Siti yesterday for 30 minutes.

Widyarka said Susilo also told Siti the Indonesian government was giving attention to the case and that she had the support of her countrymen back home.

He said the embassy would assign a lawyer to assist Siti when the case against her employer was brought to court.

"When everything is settled and calmed down, we will send her back home as she requested. The priority now is for her to get well soon."

Widyarka said Susilo also thanked the police for their

quick action in arresting Siti's employer.

He said Siti was in tears while speaking to Susilo.

Widyarka said Siti's words to the president were: "Thanks for all the attention and support that everybody has given to me, even though my body is destroyed."

Widyarka said police yesterday recorded a statement from the embassy's second secretary in the counselor section, Susapto Anggoro Broto, at the embassy.

Brickfields police chief Assistant Commissioner Wan Abdul Bari Wan Abdul Khalid confirmed this, but declined to elaborate on the matter.