

Raging hormones and tears

By Shanti Gunaratnam
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KUALA LUMPUR: The number of rape cases involving teenage girls, especially those between the ages of 13 and 15, is on the rise.

According to police statistics, the number of teenagers (18 years old and younger) raped increased from 3,098 in 2007 to 3,409 in 2008, and 3,626 last year.

The majority of those raped were between the ages of 13 and 15 — 1,409 in 2007, 1,666 in 2008, and 1,767 last year.

As well, the number of cases involving children below the age of 6 reported raped is growing: 26 in 2007, 34 in 2008 and 37 last year.

Superintendent Ong Chin Lan of Bukit Aman's sexual and child abuse investigation division (D11) said many of the teenagers were raped by other teens they met for the first time.

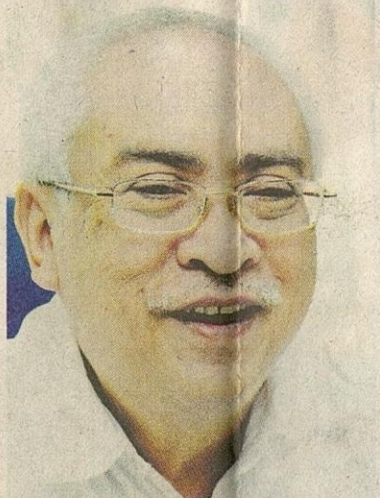
"Some of the perpetrators were people they met on the Internet or even friends of friends who sent them text messages by phone to meet up in shopping complexes. Many don't even know the names of the youngsters they have had sex with.

"Often, it is the teenagers' parents who force them to lodge police reports. Even though the sex is consensual, they are below 16 and thus it constitutes statutory rape. Many of them have sex on the first date.

"These teens are changing physically and psychologically and want to experience and enjoy sex," she told the *New Sunday Times*.

Ong said sex education, as well as religious and moral studies were important.

"Many teenage boys don't know the consequences of having sex with an underage girl. They think it's okay, but it is a criminal offence to do so."



Sexologist and consultant psychologist Datuk Dr Mat Saat Baki says incest involving young boys are a growing menace here

Code. Those convicted can be jailed a minimum five years or a maximum 30 years, and be caned.

Sexologist and consultant psychologist Datuk Dr Mat Saat Baki said many of the teenage girls were raped by their peers when they "hung out" with friends during weekends.

"Some rapes were premeditated, while some were crimes of opportunity. Many of the girls I have spoken to said they were raped despite saying 'no' to their boyfriends or friends."

Many of those who have been raped are ashamed and reluctant to lodge police reports because of the stigma attached.

"Their families, too, do not believe them. We have had cases where the parents blamed the young girls for getting raped and told them they deserved it," said criminologist Geshina Ayu Mat Saat.

with their boyfriends or friends, at least two or three would get raped.

"The numbers are actually bigger but many of the cases go unreported. At the end of the day, it is the victims who bear many psychological scars and develop mental and emotional problems, while the boys go scot free and continue raping."

Geshina Ayu said for every one case that is reported, seven go unreported.

The other growing problem in Malaysia, said Mat Saat, is incest involving young boys, and even family friends rape them.

What is worrisome, said Mat Saat, was that mothers sometimes turned a blind eye to abuses perpetrated by their husbands.

"Some of these women could be financially dependant on their spouses. Others could be threatened by their husbands."

"What many mothers do not realise is that their abused children will go on to become abusers themselves if there is no intervention."

Geshina Ayu said that there isn't any data on how many children were being sexually abused by parents.

"We need to have a database that will help us look into the problem and tackle it."

"Incest should not be swept under the carpet."



Criminologist Geshina Ayu Mat Saat says that for every rape case that is reported, seven go unreported. — Pictures by Zaidi Baharudin

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Those who have sex with teens under 16 can be charged with statutory rape under Section 376 of the Penal

served it," said criminologist Geshina Ayu Mat Saat.

Geshina Ayu, who works with many agencies, including the police, said that out of 10 girls who go out

by Zaki Zaharudin
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What do you think? Send your views to nsunt@nst.com.my

Watch out, rapists come in many guises

KUALA LUMPUR: Paedophiles will often live within a 5km radius of children to monitor their activities from a safe distance.

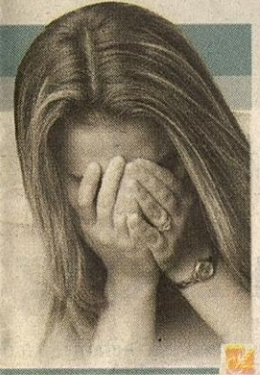
Criminologist Geshina Ayu Mat Saat said some child molesters would work in schools, kindergartens and also nurseries with the intention of getting to know the children better.

"We have also noticed, based on our interviews with child abusers, that they are changing their modus operandi.

"Instead of them going out themselves to get the kids, they are sending out women accomplices to do the job as children tend to trust women more readily.

"Some of the molesters know the

RAPE STATISTICS 2007 — 2009			
Age	Cases in 2007	Cases in 2008	Cases in 2009
Below 6	26	34	37
6-9	51	35	62
10-12	167	136	182
13-15	1,409	1,666	1,767
16-18	581	636	652
Above 18	864	902	926
TOTAL	3,098	3,409	3,626



children well themselves. Many of the children who have been abused are friendly, trusting and often assume that it is safe to socialise with those who look like the kind uncle or

pakcik next door," she said. Geshina Ayu said there were several types of rapists. "There are those who give lame excuses for the crime they have

committed, those who blame the victims, and those who say the victims were simply at the wrong place at the wrong time. "There have been those who told

us that the victim wanted to be raped and that they were simply doing them a favour.

"There are also some rapists who make fun of their victims and act like hotshots. Some think rape is no big deal.

"Some have a fetish for sexy clothes, shoes, hair, plump women, or tall and leggy ones. There are also those who rape out of revenge.

"Some of the offenders justified their actions by saying that they did not know that rape was a crime.

"And then there are those suffering from the Peter Pan syndrome. These are men whose emotional life has remained at an adolescent stage and they think it is acceptable to have sex with children."