

Child bride case man charged

Riduan alleged to have bribed girl's father to withdraw report

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KOTA KINABALU: The restaurant manager accused of raping a 13-year-old girl, who later became his second wife, has pleaded not guilty to the charge of bribing her father with RM5,000 to withdraw a police report.

Riduan Masmud, 41, was alleged to have offered the bribe to the girl's father, a security guard at the same restaurant, on April 18.

He was also charged before the Special Court for Corruption Judge Caroline Bee Majanil with two other counts of paying the father RM2,000 and RM3,000 between 9pm and midnight at separate locations in Kota Kinabalu on the same day.

Riduan, who was charged on Feb 28 with raping the girl in a parked car in Inanam, appeared calm when he entered the courtroom with his eldest daughter and lawyer.

He was allowed a bail of RM2,000 with one local surety.

Earlier, Deputy Prosecuting Officer Mukhriz Mat Rus, representing the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, had asked for a RM10,000 bail with two local sureties.

However, Riduan's counsel Loretto S Padua Jr objected, saying the amount was too high and imposing this would be like punishing him before the trial.

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— LORETTO S PADUA JR

client cannot afford it.

"He has been suspended from his job and is now working part-time jobs," he said, describing the attention on his client as being "hyped up" by the media.

Padua argued that a high bail would seem unfair, considering that Riduan had paid RM8,000 as bail in his rape case and never failed to report once a week to the Karamunsing police station as requested by the court.

Riduan, who has two daughters and two sons with his first wife, later posted bail.

The rape case, which would be up for mention on Thursday, came to light when the girl's aunt filed a police report.

Riduan married the girl soon after he was charged with having raped her on Feb 18.



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Calm and collected: Riduan (left) and his lawyer Padua walking out of the court in Kota Kinabalu.