



ศูนย์ทนายความมุสลิม
MUSLIM ATTORNEY CENTRE

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Press Release

End of witness examination in Sulaiman Naesa's post mortem inquest Court order allows major witness in trial examined behind closed doors Verdict is to be released on 20 September 2012

19 July 2012 was the last day of witness examination in the post mortem inquest of Mr. Sulaiman Naesa who died in May 2010. He was found dead with his body hanging by his neck from window grilles in one of the holding cells in the Reconciliation Promotion Center, Ingkhayudh Boriharn Army Camp, Pattani. One witness who was held in custody at the same time as Mr. Sulaiman asked the Court to have his examination conducted behind closed doors. He felt concerned for his safety as he has been harassed during visitations from officials. With no objection from the other party, the Court allowed the examination to be conducted behind closed doors. Those who were not directly relevant to the case were not allowed in the courtroom. After the completion of the witness examination, the Court announced that it will deliver its verdict at 13.30 on 20 September 2012.

The public prosecutor asked the Court to conduct the post mortem inquest on 21 December 2010 and it was admitted as the Black Case no. Chor 14/2553. The Court's judgment is supposed to identify the deceased, the location and time of his death and the cause of death as well as any circumstances related to his death. In addition, if his death was caused by someone else, the identity of the person who caused the death would be ascertained as much as possible. Mr. Jaewae Naesa, Mr. Sulaiman's father, asked the Court to allow his lawyers to examine the prosecution witnesses and to propose their own list of witnesses. He does not believe that his son took his own life by hanging himself to death.

It has taken almost two years to complete the inquest and the case has attracted a lot of public attention. Both parties had the chance fully examine the witnesses. The last witness examinations took place on 17 July 2012 with the examination of a prosecution witness, on 18 July, with examination of an inquiry officer, and three witnesses from the petitioner, and on 19 July with three witnesses from the petitioner, one of whom was examined discreetly.

In a separate civil suit, Mr. Sulaiman's parents have filed charges against state agencies to demand compensation. These state agencies include: the Office of the Prime Minister, defendant no.1, the Ministry of Defence, defendant no. 2, and the Royal Thai Army, defendant no. 3. The case was admitted by the Provincial Court of Pattani as the Black Case no. Por 248/2554 and the witness examination shall commence on 13 November 2012.

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