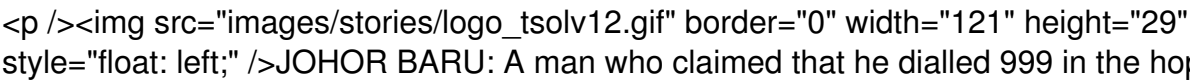


Man claims wrongful arrest over feud with neighbour

Written by

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 JOHOR BARU: A man who claimed that he dialled 999 in the hope that the police would help him, ended up in jail for four days instead.

S. Rajanthran, 48, said that he had initially called the police to take action against his neighbour who was breaking his back door and urging him to fight.

My neighbour and I have been in a feud for a long time, and that day I was afraid that things would get out of hand and decided to contact the police.

I called 999 five times and two police officers finally came to my house at around 9pm on Aug 1 and escorted me to the police station claiming that they wanted to take my statement on the incident, he said at The Star office here yesterday.

Rajanthran said that once he reached the police station, he was handcuffed and kept in the police lock-up for four days.

I was not allowed to call anyone, and the policemen who arrested me also refused to divulge the reason for my arrest, he said, adding that on the fifth day, he was finally brought to court and charged with assaulting his neighbour. He was released after his son posted bail of RM3,500.

Johor Baru South OCPD Comm Zainuddin Yaakob confirmed that Rajanthran had been arrested after his neighbour's wife, G. Mariyae, 42, had alleged that he had assaulted her and hurt her shoulder.

We remanded him for four days and eventually charged him in court, he said, adding that the hearing date for the case has been set for Oct 10.

Both neighbours have a history of feuding which supposedly ended in April when the magistrate's court here ordered them to pay a good behaviour bond of RM500 each.

They had been feuding over the felling of three coconut trees, which prompted one of them to lodge 42 police reports against the other for harassment.