

# Sg Tapang murder: Five charged but 3 fail to turn up in court

**KUCHING:** Five men were charged in the Magistrates' Court here with the murder of a 22-year-old man in an apartment unit at Jalan Sungai Tapang in December last year.

However, three of the accused failed to appear, with Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan issuing arrest warrants against them and ordering the warrants to be returned on Feb 16, 2026.

The two accused present at the court nodded to indicate they understood the charge against them, framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code read together with Section 34 of the same Code.

Section 302 carries the death penalty or imprisonment for a term of between 30 and 40 years and, if not sentenced to death, whipping of not fewer than 12 strokes, upon conviction.

No plea was recorded as the offence falls under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

The court also denied the duo bail as murder is a non-bailable offence, and fixed Feb 16, 2026 for further mention of the case pending the post-mortem report.



The two accused are escorted by police at the court. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

According to the charge, the accused together with several others allegedly murdered Francis Chang Ze at the apartment at about 4.30am on Dec 1, 2024.

Deputy public prosecutors Chuah Kai Sheng and Ahmad Fauzulutfi Suriani appeared for

the prosecution, while the two accused were unrepresented.

Previous media reports stated that police received a report regarding an altercation at the apartment complex and later found the victim fatally slashed inside one of the rooms of his unit.