



The two army privates (left and second left), along with detainees in unrelated cases, enter a police van to be taken to court.

# Army privates charged with murder of fellow soldier, bail denied



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**MIRI:** Two army privates were charged in the Magistrates' Court here yesterday with the murder of a member of the 20th Battalion Royal Malay Army Regiment (RAMD) last month.

No plea was recorded from Muhammad Afiq Syarim, 23, of Bedong, Kedah, and Mohamad Faies Khuzaimah, 21, of Tumpat, Kelantan.

Dressed in sportswear, they nodded as the charge was read to them by a court interpreter before Magistrate Ashok

Linggam.

The charge under Section 302 of the Penal Code read together with Section 34 of the same Code carries the death penalty or imprisonment for 30 to 40 years and no fewer than 12 strokes of the cane, upon conviction.

Muhammad Afiq and Mohamad Faies allegedly murdered Private Muhammad Muqriz Aseri, 21, between 2.15am and 3.05am on March 24 in a room at the LLP Bachelor Quarters Block, Alpha Company, 20th RAMD Kem Sri Miri.

The court set May 30, 2025 for further mention of the case, and ordered both accused to be further remanded pending the date, as the offence is non-bailable.

Deputy public prosecutor Franklin Ganggan Bennet appeared for the prosecution, while Mohamad Faies was represented by lawyer Ranbir Singh.

Muhammad Afiq was unrepresented.

On March 24, the Malaysian Army in a statement said a post-mortem conducted at Miri Hospital determined that Muhammad Muqriz's death was due to blunt trauma to the chest (constusio cordis), referring to a strong impact on the chest that resulted in heart damage.

It added that preliminary investigations revealed that elements of 'manhandling' were suspected to have caused the death.