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Farmhand pleads guilty to causing co-worker's death



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Heriadi is led away after the proceedings.

SIBU: An Indonesian farm worker pleaded guilty at the High Court here yesterday to an alternative charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder over the death of his co-worker last year.

Judicial Commissioner Alvin Leong recorded the guilty plea after the alternative charge under Section 304(a) of the Penal Code and its consequences were read and explained to the accused through an interpreter.

The alternative charge was accepted by the prosecution following representations made by the defence.

Following the guilty plea, the court fixed Jan 29, 2027 for sentencing, with the defence given until Dec 3, 2026 to file its reply submission.

According to the facts of the case, Heriadi and his wife Keti, along with their countryman Andi, worked at a vegetable plantantion along Jalan Rantau Panjang here, and lived together in a wooden hut.

Tensions arose between the two men after Andi allegedly made inappropriate advances towards Keti on several occasions.

She disclosed the incidents to Heriadi on the morning of June 22, 2025, prompting him to become angry and instruct her to stay away from Andi.

At about 7pm that day, all three were in the kitchen when Heriadi, who was suffering from an intense headache, asked Andi for medication.

Andi, however, dismissed his request and stood up to adjust an LED light strip, while Keti went to the toilet.

At that moment, Heriadi picked up an iron claw hammer and repeatedly struck Andi on the head from behind.

Keti rushed out of the toilet after hearing the commotion and witnessed the attack, but the accused ignored her pleas to stop and repeatedly told her to run.

Andi collapsed face-down on the kitchen floor with severe head injuries, while Heriadi hid the bloodstained hammer in the couple's bedroom before fleeing with Keti into a nearby jungle.

Their employer discovered Andi's body the following morning and lodged a police report.

A post-mortem examination found multiple skull fractures, extensive bleeding beneath the brain's covering, and extrusion of brain tissue.

The cause of death was certified as severe head injury secondary to blunt force trauma.

Police subsequently recovered the hammer, which was found to contain blood samples matching Andi's DNA profile.

Heriadi and Keti were arrested along Teku-Pasai Siong Road here on June 23, 2025 while waiting for a vehicle to facilitate their escape.

Deputy public prosecutor Mark Kenneth Netto appeared for the prosecution, while lawyer Ranbir Singh represented the accused.