AT THE COURTS

Rapper charged with trying to promote ill will between races

He allegedly breached a 24-month conditional warning issued in 2019 over a racially charged rap video

Shaffiq Alkhatib
Court Correspondent

Local musician Subhas Nair was yesterday charged with four counts of attempting to promote feelings of ill will between different religious and ethnic groups.

In a police statement earlier, Nair, 29, was said to have breached a 24-month conditional warning for allegedly producing a racially charged rap video and publishing it online.

The clip is said to have attempted to promote feelings of ill will between Chinese people and people of other races.

One of the terms of the warning – given on Aug 14, 2019 – stated that if Nair reoffended, he could be prosecuted for the offence for which he was warned, in addition to prosecution for any alleged fresh offence.

Despite the warning, Nair allegedly posted comments on social media platform Instagram on July 25 last year in response to a video of Chinese Christians who made hateful comments against another community.

He allegedly commented that Malay Muslims who make the same hateful comments would be treated differently by the authorities compared with the Chinese Christians.

As a result, Nair – whose full name is Subhas Govin Prabhakar Nair – was charged yesterday over his alleged 2019 offence linked to the rap video.

He is also accused of trying to promote feelings of ill will between Chinese and Indians by claiming in a post on Instagram, on Oct 15 last year, that one of the Chinese people involved in the murder of an Indian man at Orchard Towers in 2019 purportedly received lenient treatment from the authorities because of his race.

While under police investigation later, Nair allegedly tried to promote feelings of ill will between Chinese and Indians during an indoor stage performance on March 11 this year, by exhibiting a cartoon drawing of his Oct 15 post.

According to court documents, the play, titled Tabula Rasa – Album Exploration, was presented at The Substation arts centre in Armenian Street.

Nair is represented by lawyer Eugene Thuraisingam. His case has been adjourned to Nov 29 and he was offered bail of $10,000.

For each charge of attempting to promote feelings of ill will between different groups on grounds of religion or race, an offender can be jailed for up to three years and fined.

ashaffiq@sph.com.sg

Local musician Subhas Nair, who was charged yesterday with four counts of attempting to promote feelings of ill will between different religious and ethnic groups, was offered bail of $10,000.

During yesterday's press conference, Assistant Commissioner of Police Zed Teo, commander of Ang Mo Kio Police Division, said: "The police will not tolerate such brazen acts. We will spare no effort to apprehend those who blatantly disregard the law and endanger the safety of others. Police officers face risks in their daily work. Despite this, our officers remain steadfast in their duties to keep Singapore safe and secure."

Caius Chan Jing Kai and Lakshan Saravanan, both 19, were charged in a district court yesterday with the theft of a black Hyundai Accent at the weekend. A total of five people were arrested in relation to the case. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

Two ex-prison officers accuse of giving inmate info on other prisoners

Two former prison officers were charged in a district court yesterday over unlawful sharing with an inmate of information about other inmates at Tanah Merah Prison.

Muhammad Zul Helmy Abdu Latip, 32, was handed four charge under the Official Secrets Ac (OSA). His former colleague Muhammad Fattahullah Mohc Nordin, 37, faces two charges u der the OSA and one charge und the Computer Misuse Act.

The two are said to have share the information with inmate Abdul Karim Mohamed Kuppai Khan, 3 who was charged with six count under the OSA and one count criminal intimidation.

Prior to yesterday's court proceedings, Abdul Karim wa handed more than 60 charges fc offences including cheating an drug-related crimes.

These earlier cases are still pen ing and he is currently behind bars

On five occasions last year, Fa tahullah allegedly shared with Ab dul Karim the locations of other inmates at Tanah Merah Prison.

Fattahullah is said to have unlaw fully accessed another inmate's case file on Oct 11 last year. T next day, he allegedly told Abdu Karim the location of this inmate.

On Oct 13 last year, Zul Helm allegedly shared with Abdul Karin the age of a second inmate.

Zul Helmy is also accused of sha ing with Abdul Karim the home ad dress of a third inmate that day. H is said to have told Abdul Karim th contact number of the third inmate's next of kin a week later.

On Oct 17 last year, he allegec shared with Abdul Karim informa tion linked to the criminal charges of a fourth inmate.

Abdul Karim is accused of multi ple counts of unlawfully receiving information from Zul Helmy and Fattahullah.

Separately, he is said to hav criminally intimidated one of the inmates in October last year.

According to court documents Abdul Karim allegedly threatenec to hurt the man's family members by accurately reciting the man's ac dress.

Court documents did not state how the trio's alleged offence came to light, but the Singapor Prison Service referred the case the Corrupt Practices Investiga tion Bureau (CPIB).

The bureau said in a statemen "Singapore adopts a strict zero-tol erance approach towards corrup tion and other criminal activities.

"CPIB will not hesitate to take firm action against offenders, includ ing public officers who abuse thei position of authority and tarnish the image of the public service."

Zul Helmy is represented by lawyer Patrick Fernandez.

The cases involving all three Si gaporean men have been a journed to Nov 22.

For each charge under the OS an offender can be jailed for up t two years and fined.

Shaffiq Alkhatib

Muhammad Zul Helmy Abdul Latip (left) and Muhammad Fattahullah Mohd Nordin both face charges under the Official Secrets Act.

Weather

SINGAPORE

23/33°C

THUNDERY SHOWE

over many areas in the afternoon.

OUTLOOK

Wednesday: Afternoon thundery showers.

Thursday: Morning thundery showers.

AIR QUALITY

PSI 30-53 (Moderate

24-hour reading as of 6pm yesterday

Rise 6.47am
Set 6.51pm

Rise 4.21am
Set 4.45pm

TIDES

Today: 2.58am (0.9m), 9.26am (2.7m), 3.30pm (1.2m), 9.28pm (2.7m).

Tomorrow: 3.41am (0.8m), 9.54am (2.9m), 4.03pm (0.9m), 10.11pm (2.9m).

Teens hauled to court after cops injured while trying to stop stolen car

Samuel Devaraj

Two teenagers were charged yesterday after an incident in which five police officers were injured while trying to stop the driver of a stolen car from fleeing.

Caius Chan Jing Kai and Lakshan Saravanan, both 19, were charged in a district court with the theft of a black Hyundai Accent last Saturday.

Lakshan faces another charge of stealing a pair of licence plates from another car.

In a press conference earlier yesterday, the police said they received a report about the stolen car at around 8.30pm last Saturday.

A 22-year-old man, who was providing a carpooling service, said his two male passengers had driven off with the vehicle when he stepped out to buy cigarettes for them in Jalan Kayu.

One of the alleged thieves was said to be driving the car with a passenger at 2.15am on Sunday when it hit an unmarked police car and a parked van. The officers were not injured and the car sped off soon after.

The driver was arrested about six hours later with the help of police cameras. A stun device was recovered from him.

His passenger, a 15-year-old girl, was also arrested.

By then, he was said to have passed the stolen vehicle to his alleged accomplice.

Investigations revealed that the licence plates of the stolen car had allegedly been changed to those stolen from another car in Marine Parade.

Police officers spotted the stolen car with two men inside at about 9am on Sunday at a carpark in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6.

When the driver was told to step out of the car, he allegedly sped off, causing three officers to fall and suffer minor injuries, said the police.

An unmarked police car then chased the stolen vehicle. In allegedly trying to evade capture, the driver of the stolen car hit two cars parked along the road as well as the pursuing police car, injuring two officers inside.

The car was eventually stopped in Lentor Plain and a flick knife was found inside. The driver and his passenger were then arrested.

The five officers had various injuries, including abrasions and bruises.

A 16-year-old girl was arrested later for her suspected involvement in the theft, making a total of five arrests.

If found guilty of theft of a motor vehicle with common intention, Lakshan and Chan can be jailed for up to seven years and fined.

Lakshan can also be jailed for up to three years and fined if convicted of stealing a set of vehicle licence plates.

This incident comes after another one last week in which a Traffic Police officer was injured by a reversing car, allegedly driven by a man fleeing a police check.

During yesterday's press conference, Assistant Commissioner of Police Zed Teo, commander of Ang Mo Kio Police Division, said: "The police will not tolerate such brazen acts. We will spare no effort to apprehend those who blatantly disregard the law and endanger the safety of others.

"Police officers face risks in their daily work. Despite this, our officers remain steadfast in their duties to keep Singapore safe and secure."

samuelsd@sph.com.sg

Jail for A*Star scientist who performed sex act in common area of c

A scientist from the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*Star) who exposed himself and performed a sexual act in a common area of his condominium complex was yesterday sentenced to 10 weeks' jail and a fine of $1,600.

While Chinese national Xie Danpeng, 31, was still under investigation for these offences, he appeared naked before another woman, aged 32, at another property in June last year.

Xie pleaded guilty in July this year to two counts of sexual exposure as well as one count each of criminal trespass and an unrelated charge of dishonest misappropriation of property.

In a statement to The Straits Times yesterday, A*Star said it takes a firm stand against any proven acts of law-breaking.

A spokesman for the agency said Xie has been suspended since July this year.

"We have commenced our internal disciplinary process which takes into account his sentence," the spokesman added.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Stephanie Koh said a 37-year-old woman was near her unit at the Barossa Gardens condominium in Pasir Panjang Road some time between 8am and 9am on April 12 last year when she spotted Xie committing the sexual act while staring at her.

Xie Danpeng was yesterday given 10 weeks' jail and a fine of $1,600. He has been suspended by A*Star since July this year.

She recorded a video of his actions and the police were alerted.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old woman also spotted Xie committing the offence and told her boyfriend what she saw.

The man confronted Xie, who ran back to his unit. The man then informed the condominium's management about the incident.

Police officers arrested Xie later that day.

He was later evicted from his unit and, from April 14 last year, barred from entering the condominium grounds.

Despite this, he trespassed c the property five days later b entering through an unlocked door that led to a rubbish collec tion area.

In an unrelated incident on April 10 last year, Xie misappropri ated a bicycle worth about $60 after he found it parked by the road side near Alexandra Retail Centr in Alexandra Road. The bicycle ha not been recovered.

For each count of sexual expo sure, an offender can be jailed f up to a year and fined.

Shaffiq Alkhatib