

## **Indon maid jailed for life for killing elderly boss**

She punched the elderly woman into unconsciousness and threw her to her death from a ninth-floor window.

By Chong Chee Kin

On Monday, Barokah (above) admitted to a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and was sentenced to life in prison for the killing. -- ST PHOTO: WONG KWAI CHOW

MORE than two years ago, 75-year-old Wee Keng Wan caught her maid sneaking back into her flat after a tryst with a boyfriend.

In the heated argument that followed, the maid, 28-year-old Barokah, pummeled Mrs Wee into unconsciousness and tossed the elderly woman to her death from a ninth-floor window.

On Monday, Barokah admitted to a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and was sentenced to life in prison for the killing.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Amarjit Singh told the court a battle erupted between Wee and Barokah in the elderly woman's Chai Chee flat on Oct 19, 2005.

Barokah had just returned from a rendezvous with her Bangladeshi boyfriend; her husband was working in Malaysia.

When Madam Wee confronted her about her secret meetings, Barokah became unhappy and challenged the older woman to send her back to Indonesia.

A fight broke in the bedroom and Barokah knocked out Madam Wee, who, at 1.55m, stood a head shorter than her maid.

Hearing the commotion, Madam's Wee sickly 78-year-old husband, Mr Lee Tang Sang, came into the bedroom.

Barokah claimed she had no idea what happened to Madam Wee and even tried reviving the older woman by slapping her face.

However, when Mr Lee left the apartment to seek help from the neighbours, Barokah threw Madam Wee out of the window and left the room.

Questioned by police officers at the scene, Barokah first feigned ignorance when asked where Madam Wee was.

Pressed for an answer, she told police and relatives of the dead woman that Madam Wee could have wandered off for her morning exercise session.

However, her inconsistent answers drew the attention of the police officers and she was soon arrested.

<https://www.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/.../A1Story20071126-38491.html>

Justice Tay Yong Kwang on Monday sentenced Barokah to life imprisonment after she admitted to a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Barokah joined the household in September 2005 to look after the Mr Lee who suffered from Parkinson's disease, hypertension and heart problems.

Barokah had a poor track record and worked on an off for Madam Wee.

Psychiatrists later diagnosed Barokah with depression and a dependent personality disorder that draws her to men.

She had had two affairs and both times she bore children. She gave a son born in 2004 to a friend to raise. After arriving in Singapore in 2005, she had an affair with her Bangladeshi boyfriend and bore a daughter while in prison.

In her defence, her lawyers, Senior Counsel Harpreet Singh Nehal and Mr Wendell Wong, told the court that Barokah had been struggling with her own infidelity.

More importantly, the offence was not pre-meditated.

'It was a wholly irrational and impulsive act of a young, newly pregnant, sleep deprived maid who cracked while labouring under a transient mental disorder,' Mr Singh said.

Madam Wee's children, who were in court on Monday, declined to be interviewed.