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# 18 charged with torching centre

## Inmates at rehab unit who may face up to 20 years in jail, plead not guilty

**BUTTERWORTH:** Eighteen inmates from the Kampung Selamat Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Tasek Gelugor who have been implicated in the torching of several buildings last Friday face a long jail term if convicted.

They were jointly charged at the Sessions Court here yesterday with carrying out mischief by fire, as part of an unlawful assembly, which destroyed seven blocks at the centre.

If convicted under Section 436 of the Penal Code, they can be jailed up to 20 years and fined.

B. Sivasangar, 37, Mohd Zulkifli Hassan, 29, Mohd Imanuddin Shamsul Rahman Khan, 22, J. Murugesan, 28, Baharuddin Chandili, 34, Zuhaimi Sudin, 38, Khairul Anuar Mahmud 26, Mohd Azrul Hassan, 27, Salleh Faizal, 43, Selbin Jalil, 29, Noor Azrin Azman, 31, Mohd Irman Mahad, 26, Mohd Nizam Abu Bakar, 29, Mohd Norhasmi Taib@Hashim, 32, Mohd Sarihan Abd Samad, 28, Abd Rahman Abd Hamid, 26, Mohamad Azizi Abd Rahman, 27, and Sharian Yahya, 30, pleaded not guilty.

They allegedly set fire to the centre's administrative block, a store, main hall, therapeutic community

programme complex, records office, duty officer's room and auxiliary police post at 6.30pm last Friday.

Sessions judge Julie Lack Abdullah fixed July 27 for mention pending reports from the Fire and Rescue Department and to allow time for

the accused to appoint defence counsel.

DPP Yusaini Amer Abdul Karim prosecuted.

Noor Azrin, on behalf of the other accused, appealed to the judge to allow them to be remanded at the Alor Setar prison as some of them were HIV positive and suffering from chronic illnesses.