

Singapore accepts Filipino experts at murder probe.

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MANILA, Feb 6 (Reuters) - Singapore has agreed to allow Filipino forensic experts to attend an inquiry into the death in December of a Filipino maid, the Department of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday.

The Singapore decision was unprecedented, department officials said, quoting a report by Victoriano Lecaros, the Philippines' charge d'affaires in Singapore.

The inquiry is to start on Thursday.

Lecaros said the Singaporean government had also agreed to the presence at the inquiry of relatives of Angelina Palaming, 28, who plunged to her death from her employer's nine-storey apartment block on December 7.

Palaming's five-year-old ward also fell but survived when he landed on her body.

"This will be the time...to address lingering doubts about the case," Lecaros said.

Palaming's family suspects foul play in her death and has refused to accept the explanation by Philippine diplomats that she might have been trying to save her ward from falling off the building when they both fell.

Ties between Singapore and the Philippines soured last year after an uproar in this country over the hanging by Singapore of another maid, Flor Contemplacion, for double murder.

She had confessed to killing another Filipino maid and a four-year-old Singaporean boy in 1991 but many Filipinos believed she was framed.

The two countries normalised relations last month, ending an eight-month row.

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