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Former 'Berita Harian' journalist **Karim Sulaiman** with his wife, **Siti Hawa Mohd Ariff**, at Kuala Lumpur Hospital. Pic by Azhar Ramli

Ex-BH journo bedridden with skin disease

KUALA LUMPUR: Award-winning *Berita Harian* journalist Karim Sulaiman, 53, has been hospitalised since last Tuesday for high fever and breathing difficulties.

The 2001 Kajai Award winner, who is suffering from a skin disease called Scleromyxedema, was forced to leave his job at *Berita Harian* after the illness restricted his movements and speech.

His wife, Siti Hawa Mohd Ariff, 52 said Karim opted for sick leave since 2006 but his love for

writing never faded. She said she noticed the changes on her husband's body since November 2000, when the skin on his nose became red and stretched.

She said the disease had spread since its initial diagnosis and caused her husband's skin to stretch and harden until he could no longer move his joints.

The 27-year veteran journalist won the Kajai award for his article "Masalah kepincangan pelaburan Tabung Haji".