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`I will not step down as Youth head'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he will not step down as Umno Youth chief as it is an elected post.

He said only the delegates, who had elected him in the 1996 party contest through a democratic process, could determine his position.

"I have no intention yet to relinquish my post as I do not have a strong reason to do so," he said in a Press release today.

His statement came on a day when more Umno leaders joined the chorus asking him to state his stand on the expulsion of former Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as an Umno member, or quit.

Ahmad Zahid said he wanted to reiterate Umno Youth's stand as agreed to at the Barisan Nasional Youth meeting on Sept 3, pledging support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister and Umno president.

"However, I understand, appreciate and am open to the views of some leaders within the Youth movement who are confused on the matter," he said.

On his presence at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's resident, Ahmad Zahid said he was there to show his sympathy to the latter's family.

"It should not be interpreted differently as the movement's stand on the matter is clear," he said.

Meanwhile, Bagan Serai Umno youth chief Abdul Muhaimin Abdul Rahman Nazri today resigned as Ahmad Zahid's special officer.

Abdul Muhaimin, who is State youth assistant secretary, said this was because he did not want to be a part of Anwar's reformation movement.

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