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Malaysian in UK horrified by distorted Press coverage

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I AM a Malaysian living abroad and have read with increasing horror of the current crisis in Malaysia especially the distorted coverage by the British Press.

One article in the Times even likened the political situation in Malaysia to that of the dictatorship in Myanmar. I am aware that a small minority of Malaysians have staged demonstrations in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim but I do not believe that the majority of Malaysians want change to be brought to Malaysia in this way.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has steered the country to economic prosperity and enabled the Malaysians to talk with pride about the developments in the country and also maintained racial harmony.

Regardless of his guilt or innocence in relation to his sexual activities, Anwar has by his current actions in promoting riots and demonstrations, proved that he would be unfit to lead the Malaysian people.

His portrayal of Malaysia as a corrupt nation does Malaysians no good abroad besides destroying the pride in ourselves.

My feeling is that Malaysians would rather elect their leaders through democratic elections and it is they who should be allowed to decide on the next government.

That decision should be made by a majority of Malaysians - not the western media who have decided for their own reasons that Dr Mahathir should go.

The unbalanced reporting of the British Press because of their dislike for Dr Mahathir and support of Anwar is creating an erroneous picture of events in Malaysia to the British people. By their support of those who have rioted, they are in danger of destroying years of progress and harmony and creating a situation similar to Indonesia.

The British media needs to start taking a balanced view of events in Malaysia. They will have no excuse for the way they report events if the silent majority of Malaysians make their views known.

May I suggest that you to make your feelings known, not by demonstrations or riots but by e-mailing and writing to the British newspapers and conveying to them that the decision as to who leads our country should be made by a majority of the Malaysian people. Balanced reporting should include the your views and not just that of a riotous minority who are trying to impose their views over the majority.

We are not a lesser people and we have as much right as the British to be governed by the leaders we have elected democratically and any change should be brought about by the democratic process and not by riots or outside interference.

I no longer live in Malaysia but I do not want my country's fate to be decided by outside forces and urge you to spare a few minutes to make your views known by writing to the editors of certain British newspapers and to other external media such as the CNN.