

Special envoy explains situation in Myanmar

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PUTRAJAYA: The Myanmar military junta has sent a special envoy to meet Malaysian leaders to explain the current situation in Yangon but stopped short of giving any indication when detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will be released.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar confirmed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win on Monday.

"He also came to see me to explain the situation in Myanmar, what had happened and what actions they are taking to resume the reconciliation process in the country.

"He informed me that Suu Kyi was safe and well and would be released but could not give a time-frame.

"He said they needed to ensure the security situation was back to normal first," Syed Hamid said when contacted in Tokyo yesterday.

Suu Kyi has been put under "protective custody" by the military government after clashes between her supporters and pro-government supporters on May 30.

Myanmar has been widely criticised by the international community and some countries had threatened sanctions.

It is understood that Kuala Lumpur is one of the stops for Maung Win, which included several other Asean countries and Japan.

Syed Hamid said although Malaysia was happy with such assurance, Yangon needed to take more positive and visible steps to convince Asean and the West.

"Something more ought to be done. If things do not improve, it will be difficult for them. Releasing Suu Kyi is a pre-requisite to prove that the reconciliation process is back on track," he added.

He said although ultimately it was Yangon's decision on the matter, they should remember that Asean, particularly Malaysia was a friend.