

Boycott Japanese products, says PKR

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PKR Youth today led a small group of protesters outside the Japanese embassy in Kuala Lumpur calling for a boycott of products from the land of the rising sun.

Vexed that Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim was barred from entering Japan on Jan 19, the protesters also stomped on posters featuring the Japanese flag.

PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, who submitted a memorandum to the embassy, said the party is seeking an explanation and apology for Anwar's forced deportation from Narita Airport in Tokyo.

"This is shocking as Anwar has never had any problems (entering Japan) before this...

"We believe that Japan's actions are excessive and goes against Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," added the Bukit Katil MP.

The memorandum was accepted by embassy representative Masa Hiro and two other officials.

Shamsul was accompanied by about 30 people who protested the action against Anwar by holding placards which called for a boycott of Japanese products.

The group also burned posters in front of the embassy at Jalan Stonor.

However, PKR Youth denied that those who burned and stomped on the posters with the Japanese flags are its members.

The Japanese embassy reportedly told media that Anwar was barred as he did not obtain a special permit, a requirement for those who have been convicted of a crime.

Anwar had reportedly obtained the permit the previous times he went to Japan following his 1999 conviction, the year after he was sacked as deputy prime minister.

Anwar was convicted of sodomy and corruption, but the verdict was partially

overturned in 2004. He was released from prison then as he had already served his sentence for corruption.

PKR, however, insisted that Anwar's office had contacted the Kuala Lumpur Japanese embassy and the Japanese Foreign Ministry to check if he required the special permit this time, but was told it was not required.

Anwar was in Tokyo to give a talk on the invitation of the Nippon Foundation.

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