

Najib in Istanbul, M'sia-Turkey to exchange intelligence

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Malaysia and Turkey agree that the threat of terrorism and extremism must be addressed in earnest and exchange of intelligence is necessary to do so, said Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

He said Turkey, chair of the 13th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul, had sought greater cooperation from all quarters to address this global issue.

Najib spoke to Malaysian journalists after a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey on the sidelines of the OIC summit in Istanbul.

The summit began today with leaders from 57 countries discussing matters related to unity of the ummah, Islamophobia, the threat posed by militants, and the issue of Palestine.

Najib said he conveyed Malaysia's sympathies to Erdogan over the bomb blasts triggered by militants in Istanbul and Ankara recently.

He said Malaysia asked Turkey, as the OIC chair, to give attention to issues in Southeast Asia such as the Rohingya refugee issue and security issue in the southern Philippines.

"If the security situation in the area does not improve, cases of intrusion and abduction of Malaysians will continue to take place," he said.

On the Rohingya issue, Najib said Malaysia was burdened with more than 60,000 refugees and he hoped that the issue could be addressed with OIC help.

"So long as the problem is not given serious attention by the Myanmar government for a long-term solution, it will remain a humanitarian problem.

"It is also a problem for the ummah and the OIC must take up the issue," he said.

- Bernama

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