

Najib advises M'sians in Turkey to stay calm, stay safe
MalaysiaKini.com
July 16th, 2016

Prime Minister Najib Razak asked Malaysians stranded in Turkey, following an attempted military coup, to remain calm and stay safe.

He also urged Malaysians there to contact the Malaysian Embassy in Ankara for assistance.

"Our Foreign Affairs Ministry is monitoring the situation in Turkey closely. Our Malaysian Embassy in Ankara can be of assistance if you require help or have enquiries.

"They can be reached at +(90)3124463547 or +(90)3124463548," he posted on his Facebook and Twitter accounts today.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said 27 Malaysians were stranded at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul, and more than 100 at Esenboğa International Airport in Ankara, Turkey.

He said most of those stranded were either in transit to a third country such as Egypt, or returning from performing the umrah.

"These figures are what we have got so far (as of 12pm Malaysian time). They are stranded after the no-fly zone and flight cancellations were declared in the country," he told a media conference with Malaysian journalists who were covering the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which ended today.

According to reports, a military statement stated that the armed forces had fully seized power in the country on Friday, but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said early today the coup attempt had failed, and urged the people to protect democracy.

Erdogan blamed the ongoing coup attempt on the movement led by Turkey's Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen, who is now residing in Pennsylvania, United States, according to international media reports.

- *Bernama*

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